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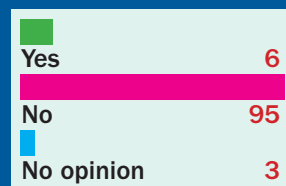
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POLL RESULTS

Do you support a CUC petition to raise power fees so it could comply with court-ordered projects?



Sunday, November 17, 2013

INSIDE

LOCAL



Fr. Luis Camacho Jr. holds his first Thanksgiving Mass at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. **► PAGE 14**



Fourteen individuals take their oath as new US citizens. **► PAGE 15**



UFO's fundraiser for victims of Typhoon Yolanda has reached \$7,000. **► PAGE 16**

CUC needs \$8M funding for cost of major capital projects. PAGE 2
Acting governor vetoes bill funding opt-out retirees' pension. PAGE 3

Admin takes back land from CHCC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. expects to lose potential revenues in the years ahead following disclosure that the Inos administration is taking back the property that the government previously gave the hospital so it could augment its income.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Inos' administration conveyed the re-transfer of the two lots through Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas.

It was former governor Benigno R. Fitial who earlier assigned the two parcels

of land on Navy Hill to the corporation in January 2012 as a means for it to raise additional revenue through land leases.

The designated properties are Lot Nos. 098 D 04 and D 05, the two parcels of

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Manglona returns to Senate

» **Senate also deals with legality of Borja's appointment**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider formally appointed former Senate president Paul A. Manglona to the 18th Senate on Friday afternoon, a day after the CNMI Supreme Court ruled that the unsuccessful candidate in the 2012

elections—and not in the 2009 polls—should be appointed to the seat vacated by former senator Juan M. Ayuyu.

But the Senate now also weighs the court decision's impact on Sen. Joaquin Borja's (Ind-Tinian) appointment, which was based in the 2009 rather than the 2012

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Manglona

Search for missing a hellish routine after typhoon

By **KRISTEN GELINEAU**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP)—John Lajara peers under a slab of crumbled concrete, lifts a sodden white teddy bear then drops it back into the filth. He reaches again into the rubble and pulls out a boot, a treasured find in this typhoon-flattened village. But he's searching for something far more precious—the body of his brother.

See SEARCH on Page 4



13 CNMI House members reject status for legal aliens

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

By a vote of 13-5, the House of Representatives adopted Friday afternoon on

Rota a resolution asking U.S. Congress to scrap from any pending national immigration reform bills a provision that would grant a pathway to improved immigration status for long-term, legal

aliens in the CNMI.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) House Resolution 18-34 was the only measure that the House was able to adopt or pass during its session held on Rota,

because of long discussions on committee reports for a short period of time, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

The House adoption of H.R. 18-34 comes days after Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the resolution is "not a good sign" at a

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Local

UNDER THREE RATE PETITIONS FILED IN 2013:

CUC needs \$8M funding for cost of major capital projects

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is pushing for the in-

creased cost of electricity rates to fund major capital projects that need \$8 million to build.

This was based on the amend- ed rate petition the utilities

agency filed on Nov. 8 with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

In the supplemental testi- mony filed by CUC consultant

economists.com, it disclosed that CUC made three filings in the last five months: on July 5, Nov. 5, and Nov. 8. All of these proposals remain intact with the commission except for the portions related to the water and wastewater rate applications that have been with- drawn by CUC.

Documents show that in CUC's July 5 filing, the agency asked for \$4.040 million to build up its inventory of poles, transformers, and related equipment that may be needed to rebuild the distribution system in the event of a major typhoon. The same petition also asked for \$1 million that will be used to buy vehicles for the distribution system.

In the Nov. 5 filing, CUC's emergency petition to increase electric charges will cover a \$1.838 million shortfall for the pipeline project for Power Plant 1. The Nov. 8 supplemental petition, meantime, asks to be allowed to increase electric rates to cover the cost of a new roof, structural repairs, and a warehouse extension totaling \$415,000. This is besides the additional costs associated with compliance with stipulated order 2 totaling \$800,000.

To summarize the funding requested by CUC for these outlays, the following are the breakdown: additional stipulated order costs (\$800,000); Power Plant 1 repairs: new roof (\$250,000); structural repairs (\$30,000); warehouse extension (\$135,000); vehicles for operation (\$1 million); transmission and distribution inventory (\$4.040 million); and oil pipe-

line costs (\$1.838 million).

Total cost for these major capital projects is \$8.093 million.

Economist.com, in its testimony, admits that it is not common for a publicly-owned electric utility to finance entire capital program under its current rates.

"Occasionally, financially sound utilities with significant financial reserves will finance a small percentage, say 5 percent or 10 percent of their capital program, through current rates.

However, to fund the entire capital program on current rates when it will result in a significant increase in electric rates is highly unusual and points out the bleak financial picture of CUC," according to economists.com.

CUC estimates that by fiscal year 2015, the agency will need an additional \$5.1 million in stipulated order costs that it says will again become a component of CUC's rate petitions for future years.

Matching fund waiver for Army Corps projects could double

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The CNMI is a step closer to having its waiver for local fund match requirement doubled for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects on the islands. If H.R. 3080 is signed into law, this will increase the current \$200,000 waiver, set in 1986, to reflect inflation over the last 27 years, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said.

The U.S. House of Representatives appointed its members to the conference committee on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. The conference committee will reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill and recommend final passage.

The House version of H.R.3080 includes Sablan's doubling the waiver of the local match requirement for Army Corps projects in the CNMI.

"The new waiver should be in excess of \$400,000, meaning projects can go forward without \$400,000 of Commonwealth money," Sablan said.

Sablan also joined with 29 other members from both sides of the aisle calling for appointment of the conferees in a letter to Speaker John Boehner (Ohio) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (California).

"I appreciate their quick response to our request," he said.

Typical Army Corps projects in the CNMI recently have included the Rota Harbor improvements completed in 2008 and the ongoing Susupe-Chalan Kanoa Drainage Plan to address flooding in those villages.

"If WRRDA is enacted with my provision, the planned Outer Cove Marina project and the Saipan Lagoon Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration project could each cost the Commonwealth over \$200,000 less," Sablan added.



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China International Travel Mart 2013 in Kunming

The **China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2013**, the biggest travel trade show in China, was held at **Kunming International Convention & Exhibition Center** on Oct. 24-27. Over 100 countries and destinations participate. The event was attended by over 6,000 public visitors, 1,200 registered professional buyers, and 100 media reps.

The **Marianas Visitors Authority**, **Century Tours**, and **Tinian Dynasty** join the U.S. Pavilion organized by **Brand USA**, along with representatives from nine other U.S. destinations, airlines, and local land operators.

Last fiscal year (ending Sept. 30, 2013), the Northern Marianas received 112,570 visitors from China, a 43 percent increase compared to the previous fiscal year.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.



Acting governor vetoes bill funding opt-out retirees' pension

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider vetoed Friday a bill funding the pension of retirees who opted out of a global settlement agreement, saying that the measure is not only "no longer necessary" but also "cannot be approved as passed" by the Legislature.

Hofschneider said House Bill 18-130, Senate Draft 1 is no longer necessary because the administration "resolved the issue of pension payments" with the NMI Retirement Fund.

The Retirement Fund is using some \$200,000 in its home loan portfolio to fund the opt-out retirees' pension.

"The revenue generated by the member home loan program is sufficient to cover the pensions for those who have opted out. This was the source of funding for the October 15, 2013 and October 30, 2013 pension payments," Hofschneider said in his transmittal message to House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Hofschneider said the \$107,258 that HB 18-130, SD1 identified to fund opt-out retirees' pension is an "outside source not available for appropriations" and the funds from the Defined Contribution employer contributions account is an "unreliable" source of funds.

"The unappropriated amount of \$107,258 referenced in the measure was mistaken as a general fund resource. After further review, it was determined that the funds are those of an outside source. As such, the funds are not subject to appropriation," the acting governor said.

The original intent of Rep. Mario Taitano's (Ind-Saipan) HB 18-130 is to use any lapsed funds from a 4 percent employer contribution to the DC plan that the government no longer

has to pay if DC members withdraw their funds.

But Hofschneider said it is not advisable to use such funds as the recent withdrawals pursuant to Public Law 17-82 has resulted in previous defined benefit plan members rolling over and/or enrolling in the DC plan.

"The enrollment has increased the government's obligations by way of employer contributions. Therefore, these funds cannot be relied upon as it will be needed to fulfill this additional obligation of the government," Hofschneider added.

Lawmakers, however, still have to find ways to generate new and additional revenues to meet the government's obligations under the settlement agreement, restore the 25 percent cut in pension, and pay the interest earned on those who withdrew contributions to the Fund.

Meanwhile, the effect of the payment of opt-out retirees' pension on retiree Jesus I. Taisague's lawsuit against the government has yet to be seen.

Taisague is suing the governor, the CNMI government, and the NMI Retirement Fund

in federal court for entering into a settlement agreement with Betty Johnson that, according to him, is unconstitutional and illegal.

Taisague said the defendants are prohibited by the U.S. and the CNMI Constitutions from impairing or diminishing their contractual obligations to pay him as a retiree. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

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HOUSE

From Page 1

time when the CNMI is aiming for “one voice.” Inos supports improved status for long-term, legal aliens.

The resolution basically opposes the CNMI-specific provision that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) inserted in S. 744 and H.R. 15.

Currently, S. 744 and H.R. 15—both granting pathway to citizenship to some 11 million undocumented aliens in Amer-

ica—are pending in Congress. Sablan said these bills may not be acted on until next year.

HR 18-34 does not allow any provision in any pending U.S. Congress bill that would allow persons “of other ethnic origin or race who are in the [CNMI] to become U.S. permanent residents and subsequently become U.S. citizens.”

A resolution is merely an expression of the House’s view; it does not have a full force of law.

The 13 House members that want Congress to eliminate a provision on improved

status for legal aliens in the CNMI are: Ogumoro, floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Reps. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), and Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan).

The five House members

that did not support Ogumoro’s HR 18-34 are: House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

Absent were minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) and Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan).

Itos Feliciano, president of the Human Dignity Movement, said it is up to Congress—“and not the 13 members of the

CNMI of House of Representatives”—to decide on national immigration reform bills.

“We are not asking to become a Chamorro citizen or Carolinian citizens. We are asking for improved status, a pathway to U.S. citizenship,” Feliciano added.

CNMI immigration is now under federal control.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), chairman of the CNMI House Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations that recommended passage of Ogumoro’s HR 18-34, said panel members feel that the U.S. is “unilaterally imposing something on the CNMI” such as on the area of immigration.

He said the committee would like Covenant 902 negotiations

to happen, for example, between the CNMI and the United States before any legislation providing a pathway to citizenship for aliens in the CNMI.

Conner added that there are already laws and rules in place granting pathway to U.S. citizenship, including for foreign workers to wait for their U.S. citizen children to turn 21 so they can be petitioned.

But even those who voted to scrap the CNMI-specific provision wanted to point out that they support extending the CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014. Without such an extension, the CNMI loses immediate access to some 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers that the tourism-based economy relies upon.

SEARCH

From Page 1

er, Winston.

For those still looking for loved ones missing since last week’s storm, their already torn-apart lives are shot through with a difficult question -- How do you move on when there is no body to bury?

The search for the missing—1,179 by official count—has become a hellish daily activity for some. In Lajara’s seaside village residents estimate that about 50 of the 400 people who lived there were killed. About half of the dead are still missing: mothers, fathers, children and friends.

“Somehow, part of me is gone,” Lajara said as another fruitless expedition in the rubble ended Saturday.

Lajara has carried out the routine since both he and his

brother were swept from their house by Typhoon Haiyan on Nov. 8. And every day has ended so far with no answers on Winston’s fate.

According to the latest figures by the Philippines’ main disaster agency, 3,633 people died and 12,487 were injured. Many of the bodies remain tangled amongst piles of debris, or lining the road in body bags that seep fetid liquid. Some are believed to have been swept out to sea.

After the initial days of chaos when no aid reached the more than 600,000 people rendered homeless, an international aid effort was gathering steam.

“We’re starting to see the turning of the corner,” said John Ging, a top U.N. humanitarian official in New York. He said 107,500 people have received food assistance so far and 11 foreign and 22 domestic medical teams are in operation.

U.S. Navy helicopters flew sorties from the aircraft carrier USS George Washington off the coast, dropping water and food to isolated communities. The U.S. military said it will send about 1,000 more troops along with additional ships and aircraft to join the aid effort.

So far, the U.S. military has moved 174,000 kilograms (190 tons) of supplies and flown nearly 200 sorties.

The focus of the aid effort is on providing life-saving aid for those who survived, the search for missing people is lower in the government’s priorities.

The head of the country’s disaster management agency, Eduardo del Rosario, said the coast guard, the navy and civilian volunteers are searching the sea for the dead and the missing.

Still, he said, the most urgent need is “ensuring that nobody starves and that food and water are delivered to them.”

Lajara’s neighbor, Neil Engracial, cannot find his mother or nephew, but he has found many other bodies. He points at a bloated corpse lying face down in the muddy debris. “Dante Cababa—he’s my best friend,” Engracial says. He points to another corpse rotting in the sun. “My cousin, Charana.” She was a student, just 22.

Lajara remembers the moment his brother vanished.

They were standing alongside each other side by side with relatives and friends before the surge hit. They stared at the rising sea, then turned to survey the neighborhood behind them, trying to figure out where or if they could run. Then the wave rushed in.

Lajara, Winston and the others dived into the water, and were swept away from each other. After Lajara’s face hit the water, he never saw Winston again.

ADMIN

From Page 1

land adjacent to the hospital totaling to 38,500 square meters. This has an estimated value of \$1.2 million.

On Nov. 13, 2013, San Nicolas wrote the CHCC board informing it of the wish of the Inos administration to reclaim the properties. This matter was the subject of the corporation board’s executive session on Tuesday, which Gov. Eloy S. Inos briefly participated in via teleconference with members.

San Nicolas, in his letter to the board, said: “I am writing on behalf of the governor, the Department of Public Lands, and the Office of Attorney General regarding the transfer of Lot Nos. 098 D04 and D05 to the DPL, and the assignment of the current option to lease between the CHC and Landscape Management Systems to DPL.”

It will be recalled that in April this year, the CHCC board approved to offer for lease a portion of the lands as a means to generate revenue for the hospital. The decision to open for lease was reached following receipt of a proposal from Landscape Management Systems Inc. in Guam, which wants to respond to an announcement by the U.S. government’s General Services Administration.

Based on the then adopted resolution, the board recommended that the corporation enter into an option to lease up to 10,000 square meters of the land.

GSA had announced that it is seeking to lease a property on Saipan where it can build a courtroom, administrative office, and law enforcement office. Landscape Management System, using CHCC property for its plan, wanted to respond to this announcement. The corporation later received a protest from another interested party and a case is now pending in court.

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* on Friday the wish of the Inos administration to reclaim the two properties.

Torres also acknowledged receiving the OAG letter but

said the board is not satisfied yet with what the letter conveys. He pointed out that the board’s fiduciary duty is to act for the best interest of the hospital. He said the board expects its legal counsel, Allen Hazlip, to soon issue an opinion on the matter and if the opinion states that the re-transfer is for the best interest of the CHCC, the property will be returned to DPL. Otherwise, he said, “he has to indemnify us.”

“Since the administration is demanding the retransfer of the land, we [as the board] need to be protected also. I ask the AG to do a letter that would state that the action [to return it] is for the best interest of the corporation,” Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked about the pending court case, Torres said that they await the court decision. He is convinced that the CHCC has a strong argument pertaining to the matter.

He disclosed, however, that GSA is no longer interested in leasing the property as a result of the litigation.

Saipan Tribune learned that a meeting between parties—the governor, DPL Secretary Pete Tenorio, representatives of Marianas Public Land Trust, and corporation interim CEO Esther Muña—took place on Oct. 23 where a consensus was reached that the public lands would be re-transferred back to the government. The same property is also encumbered due to the corporation’s existing line of credit with MPLT.

San Nicolas, in his letter to CHCC, cited tapping future federal projects on the property as the reason for the decision to reclaim the lots.

“If lots are not deeded back to DPL, which has the sole constitutional and statutory authority over the management of public lands, there is a distinct possibility that lots will not be available for these federal projects. To avoid this possibility, and in the best interest of the Commonwealth as a whole, all parties to the Oct. 23 meeting agreed that these should be deeded to DPL, and all options to lease be likewise assigned to DPL,” according to the AG.

MANGLONA

From Page 1

elections.

Borja, however, would still be re-appointed, since he was also the second highest vote-getter in the 2012 polls.

“A credentials committee will be formed. But Senator Borja would still be re-appointed. If anything, it would just be formality,” Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) said.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the plan is to have Manglona sworn in as a member of the 18th Senate right before the session begins on Tuesday.

“I would like to welcome him as part of the leadership so we can work harmoniously,” Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona will serve the remainder of Ayuyu’s term, which ends in January 2015.

Torres said a Senate reorganization is not expected on Tuesday.

When asked whether Manglona would be given chairmanship of any Senate committee, Torres said this may depend on whether any of the senators with more than one committee chairmanship would forego their second committee chairmanship.

Manglona, when asked for comment, said he is not eyeing any committee chairmanship but he would like to be a member of most, if not all, committees.

Priority

Manglona said he offers once again his hard work and commitment, focusing on economic development.

Manglona said on Rota alone, “there’s practically zero number of tourists” at a time when arrivals are picking up on Saipan.

He said he will be working with lawmakers to restore most if not the whole 25 percent that was cut from retirees’ pension. Manglona said House floor leader Ralph Demapan now has a bill restoring the 25-percent cut, and he would like to help ensure the bill gets support.

Manglona was the longest serving member of the Legislature after 25 years, thrice as Senate president, until his defeat to now Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) in the 2012 elections. He was one of the strongest critics of former governor Benigno R. Fitial, who resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

On March 11 this year, Manglona started working as the lieutenant governor’s special adviser.

Hofschneider, in an interview, said Manglona’s fulltime employee equivalent position was not filled after Oct. 31, which served as Manglona’s last day at work.

‘Alive and well’

The acting governor appointed Manglona on Friday, pursuant to Article 2 Section 9 of the

NMI Constitution.

“On behalf of Gov. [Eloy] Inos and myself, I would like to be the first to congratulate Sen. Paul A. Manglona and welcome him to the 18th Commonwealth Legislature,” Hofschneider said in a statement.

Hofschneider said the administration also thanks the CNMI Supreme Court for its expeditious resolution of the matter.

“It is great to be part of the constitutional process and I, for one, would like to note for the record that the NMI constitutional system of government with written rules of law to fill vacancies and an independent judiciary to interpret and define ambiguous terms is very much alive and well in the Commonwealth today,” Hofschneider said.

With Manglona’s appointment, the CNMI once again has a full, nine-member Senate—three senators each from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The CNMI Supreme Court said on Thursday that the term “last election” in Article 2, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution refers to the most recent expression of the electorate, paving the way for Manglona to be appointed to fill the Senate vacancy.

The high court addressed the certified question of who the governor must appoint following a vacancy in the Senate with less than half a term remaining because of Ayuyu’s resignation

as Rota senator.

Ayuyu, 48, resigned as a member of the 18th Senate effective Oct. 1, 2013, pending his court sentencing. Ayuyu faces 33 to 41 months in prison in connection with smuggling endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan and obstruction of justice.

Election commission

The acting governor sent Manglona’s appointment letter to the Senate president at past 4pm Friday, after receiving confirmation from Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero that Manglona was the second highest vote getter in the 2012 election.

Guerrero, in the same letter, said Joaquin Borja was also the second highest vote-getter in the 2012 senatorial election on Tinian.

Borja was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Hofschneider, when he became lieutenant governor in February. At the time, Borja was appointed based on being the highest vote-getter in the 2009 rather than the 2012 race.

With the court’s ruling on Thursday, the administration may have to resubmit Borja’s appointment to fill the vacancy left by Hofschneider early this year based on the results of the 2012 rather than the 2009 election.

Because Borja was the second highest vote-getter in both the 2009 and 2012 polls, he would still be re-appointed.

Judge Camacho says OAG needs to be 'fixed'

» 3 days before trial of habitual offender, OAG dismisses case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With only three days before the start of the jury trial, the Office of the Attorney General moved on Friday to dismiss the criminal case against Cheyenne P. Sablan, a habitual offender who was the suspect in the burglary of an apartment in Koblerville where several visiting Russian and Japanese ballerinas lost their money and items.

A visibly upset Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted assistant attorney general Barbara P. Cepeda's motion to dismiss with prejudice or finality the case against the 30-year-old Sablan.

The information charged Sablan with one count of burglary, five counts of theft, one count of conspiracy to commit burglary, one count of conspiracy to commit theft, one count of conspiracy to commit criminal mischief, and one count of criminal contempt.

Sex abuse of a minor case gets dismissed

The Superior Court has dismissed the case against a 41-year-old man who was charged with 27 counts of offenses for allegedly sexually abusing girl since she was 6 years old.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed with prejudice or finality the case against Raymond M. Indalecio after the Office of the Attorney General moved to dismiss the charges last week.

Saipan Tribune learned that the girl, now a teenager, had recanted the statements that she earlier gave to police.

Indalecio's trial was supposed to start on Dec. 16, 2013.

In a motion to dismiss filed Friday, Cepeda said the government is unable to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt.

Apparently, the government's key witness, who is the co-conspirator in the case, recanted his previous statement that linked Sablan to the burglary.

The co-conspirator was a juvenile when the incident happened. He signed a plea deal with the government and entered a guilty plea.

Before granting the motion, Camacho told Cepeda if she understands that court marshals already sent jury summons to 50 prospective jurors in this case.

Noting that the court and the government have already expended enormous resources in this case, Camacho said it is very frustrating to learn that the case will be dismissed just a few days before the trial.

Citing the OAG's recent motions to dismiss cases a few days before trial, the judge said it

sounds that "it's all over again."

Camacho said that in Sablan's case, the government wants the court to dismiss the case with prejudice because the main witness recanted.

Camacho said if the government is doing its job diligently, the facts could have been known earlier and the case could have been dismissed a few weeks and not days before trial.

"Do we go back to the apologize thing again?" the judge asked, referring to a recent jury trial in which he ordered the OAG to apologize to the court and the CNMI for dismissing the case after already calling in the government's witnesses at a trial.

Camacho questioned why it

took three days before the trial for the government to familiarize itself with the statements of the key witness that Sablan was not even involved in this case.

Sablan has been incarcerated for several months after he and the juvenile were arrested in March 2013. The OAG filed the case the following month.

The judge expressed concern that the OAG's Criminal Division needs to be "fixed" as the issue in Sablan's case and others should not happen.

Camacho noted that Chief Prosecutor Shelli Neal signed the information that charged Sablan.

Cepeda, who is not the original prosecutor assigned to the case, stated that if they had known

earlier about the change of statements of their key witness, they would have come to the court earlier to dismiss the matter.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Sablan, said they are thankful to Cepeda for moving to dismiss the case.

Meyer, however, expressed concern with the OAG for charging a person based on a single witness and with no physical evidence to back the charges.

"To me, that's serious, reckless. That's terrifying," Meyer said.

Meyer said that accusing somebody and making a decision to charge the person with felony should be undertaken with care.

The government charged Sablan for allegedly burglarizing

the Turnkey Housing Units and stealing money and items belonging to six ballerinas from Japan and Russia. Stolen were \$1,650 cash, 300 Russian rubles, 30,000 Japanese yen, a laptop, camera, and other items. The items were eventually all recovered.

In June 2012, Sablan pleaded guilty to the offense of theft by deception and was slapped with a 100-day prison term for stealing \$500 from a car rental owner by deceiving the businessman that he could help him recover the passports and other belongings that were stolen from a group of Chinese honeymooners.

Sablan is reportedly currently suffering from kidney failure, anemia, gout, and hypertension.



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8 schools signed up for Christmas Tree Decoration Contest

The 8th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest already has eight public and private schools that will join the competition, according to PDM Promoters, Inc.

PDM Promoters' Sonia G. Siwa said the eight schools that have signed up for this year's contest are San Antonio Elementary School, Green Meadow School, Kaman Elementary School, Tanana Elementary School, Golden Harvest Elementary School, Grace Christian School, William S.

Reyes Elementary School, and Mount Carmel School.

Last year, San Antonio successfully defended its championship in the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest.

The annual competition aims to promote the importance of recycling among elementary students by encouraging them to use empty soda cans, water bottles, used paper, and other recyclable materials to decorate 9-foot tall Christmas trees along Paseo de Marianas.

The trees will be displayed at the pedestrian mall starting on Dec. 7 along Saipan's main tourist district of Garapan.

Like previous years, the judging of entries will coincide with the kickoff of the month-long Christmas in the Marianas activities to be hosted at Paseo de Marianas by the newly formed "Friends of Paseo de Marianas," a group composed of PDM Promoters, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Pacific Development Inc. or PDI.

The 2013 Christmas in the

Marianas celebration will also have a Christmas Caroling Competition on Dec. 14 at the Paseo de Marianas and a Parade of Floats on Dec. 21. The latter will be held along the stretch of Beach Road from the Carolinian Affairs Office to the American Memorial Park.

This year's Christmas in the Marianas culminates with the annual Mochitsuki Festival on Dec. 28. Organized in collaboration with the Japanese Society, the festival marks the season's preparation of mocha—a

dough-like substance of glutinous rice—for the Japanese New Year.

PDM Promoters, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that aims to make the Paseo de Marianas and the Garapan vi-

cinity a safe and clean place for tourists and residents alike.

For more information about the 8th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest, call Siwa at 234-6900 or 989-7715. *(Mark Rabago)*

Condolence book for typhoon victims

The Philippine Consulate General would like to inform the public that it has opened a condolence book for the Filipinos who perished due to the on-

slaught and devastation caused by super typhoon Yolanda (International name "Haiyan")

The Consulate General is open for the condolence book

signing starting until Nov. 22, 2013, Monday to Friday, from 10am to 4pm.

The Consulate General would like to take this opportunity to

express its heartfelt thanks to the people on Guam for their sympathy and generous help to Filipinos who were affected by Typhoon Yolanda. *(PR)*



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Happy 7th anniversary greetings go out to my best friend, lifelong partner, my wonderful gift from God, and my Proverbs 31 wife, Kayla! Greetings come from Aaron Wood!

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 2nd birthday to Franko Ray Crisostimo Tudela! With love from Dad, Mom, Jr., Draven, Grandpa, Grandma, Auntie Shar, and Nina Reina.



Happy 7th birthday to our god-sister, Levonnie Delia, who is celebrating her birthday today! God bless and we love you! Greetings come from Elphi, Juan George, and Hayashi Daniel.



Belated happy 28th birthday to the most amazing and loving brother, Augustine Castro, who celebrated his special day on Nov. 16! Even if you're far away, we still remember your special day. We miss and love you always! Greetings come from your family.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2013 004
"PURCHASING OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE FOR THE ROTA FIRE DIVISION"

Proposal packets will be available on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26, 2013, at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2013 007
"Rehabilitation of two (2) Saipan Fire Stations
A. Susupe Fire Station • B. Kagman Fire Station"

Proposal packets will be available on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 26, 2013, at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
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New law gives NMC flexibility to revise mission statement

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A day before leaving for the U.S. Virgin Islands for a meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law on Wednesday a bill

granting Northern Marianas College the flexibility to revise its mission statement.

This is in light of accreditation standards requiring NMC to periodically review and revise its mission statement, and voter ratification of a legislative

initiative in 2012 that would allow the college to establish its mission statement.

Rep. Roman Benavente's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-115 is now Public Law 18-28. Benavente is chairman of the House Education Committee.

With the new law, the Commonwealth Code's Title 3 Section 1305 subsection (a) is amended to read: (a) The Board of Regents shall establish, and from time to time amend, the mission statement of the college."

In September, the NMC Board

of Regents adopted a new mission and vision statements for NMC, which it said was the product of community input, legislative backing, and voter support.

The new mission statement is: "Northern Marianas College, through its commitment to

student learning, provides high quality, affordable and accessible educational programs and services for the individual and people of the Commonwealth."

The new vision statement reads: "Northern Marianas College will serve as the engine to drive the economic growth and the social and cultural vitality of the Commonwealth."

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Saipan Air, Swift Air execs agree to hold hearing next month

Saipan Air Inc. and three executives of Swift Air LLC have agreed to have a hearing by next month on a motion to permanently stop Saipan Air from pursuing its \$50-million racketeering lawsuit against them.

Saipan Air, through counsel Steven Pixley, and Swift Air officers Donald A. Stukes, Jeffrey Conry, and Boris Van Lier, through their counsel Michael White, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday to hold a hearing on the motion for permanent injunction on Dec. 12, 2013, or at a later date convenient for the court and the parties in the case.

Pixley and White agreed that Saipan Air's response to the motion for permanent injunction shall be filed on or before Thursday, Nov. 21.

The lawyers also agreed that

the reply of Stukes, Conry and Van Lier to Saipan Air's response shall be filed on or before Dec. 5, 2013.

In their motion for permanent injunction, Stukes, Conry and Van Lier asserted that Saipan Air's continued pursuit of its claims in the lawsuit "runs afoul" of Swift Air's reorganization plan and should be stopped.

In opposition to the motion, Pixley said the Ninth Circuit has repeatedly held, without exception, that section 525(e) of the Bankruptcy Code "precludes bankruptcy courts from discharging the liabilities of non-debtors."

Therefore, Pixley pointed out, if the reorganization plan did provide for the release of third-party liability, as the defendants now represent, such a provision would have rendered the reorganization plan uncon-

firmable as a matter of law.

Saipan Air is suing the defendants for allegedly conspiring to

fraudulently obtain money and other property from the company. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

HHS increases LIHEAP allocation to territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced last week that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will increase the allocation to the territories for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2014 from 0.135 percent to 0.50 percent. This increase is a result of a request made by Bordallo and Delegates Donna Christensen (Virgin Islands), Eni Faleomavaega (American Samoa), and Kilili Sablan (CNMI), and Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi (Puerto Rico). HHS will increase the set-aside

available to the territories to the maximum allowed under federal law. This will more than triple the amount Guam and the other territories will receive through this program.

"I appreciate that Secretary Sebelius has used her statutory discretion to allocate LIHEAP funds to the territories in a way that more accurately reflect our needs," said Bordallo. "Energy costs are disproportionately high in the territories. ... The increased set-aside for the territories will go a long way to ensuring that more families in need of assistance will be able to benefit from this program." *(PR)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 18, 2005

CUC privatization RFP 'dead'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Request for Proposal for power generation privatization is almost certainly dead, with government officials admitting yesterday that it "may not go through" as drafted. "It requires major revisions. The RFP may not go through," said Gov. Juan N. Babauta during yesterday's press briefing on power situation. Short of saying that the proposal is dead, the governor said that when or if the changes are done, it may no longer be acceptable to the proposers since it would be totally different from the existing RFP.

CPA sues Continental Airlines

After laying off some workers due to the pullout of Japan Airlines and the imminent expiration of its ground-handling contract with Northwest Airlines, Continental Micronesia now faces a legal obstacle over those ground-handling contracts, which the Commonwealth Ports Authority describes as illegal in the absence of a permit. The CPA yesterday filed with the Superior Court a civil action against Continental Micronesia over the allegedly unpermitted use of airport facilities for commercial ground handling operations for other airline companies, such as JAL and Northwest. CPA attorney Robert T. Torres said Continental unjustly enriched itself by engaging in commercial ground handling without a permit from the agency, demanding that the airline company turn over to it the proceeds derived from those airport operations.

November 18, 2006

\$2.3M wax museum opens

Prepare to be taken back in time when you enter the newly opened \$2.3 million Wax Museum of Saipan as it brings back to life-size proportion some excerpts in the history of the CNMI. The Wax Museum of Saipan held its grand opening ceremony yesterday at its Garapan location, with acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez leading the ceremony, together with the creator of the museum, Sun International Co. Ltd. president Kaneshima Akio. Villagomez said the multimillion-dollar investment would greatly enhance the image of the CNMI as a tourist destination. "Mr. Kaneshima, we thank you for your efforts in investing in the CNMI," he said.

Administration pursues workforce plan

The Fitial administration is pursuing a labor program initially proposed during former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's third term in office. Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has appointed Daniel H. Nielsen to head the implementation of the Workforce Management Improvement Plan, which Nielsen drafted about six years ago. The workforce program was structured to place more resident workers in most management, blue and white collar, and office management positions, as well as some technical and semi-skilled positions, in the private sector.

November 18, 2007

Rota voters OK casino initiative

Rota voters have ratified a proposal to legalize casinos on the island. The casino initiative had appeared on the Rota ballot several times since 1991, but voters thumbed it down each time. On Nov. 3, the initiative got the required two-thirds of the registered voters. A total of 1,095 voters approved casino gambling on Rota, and 187 voted against it. The number of "yes" votes represents 70 percent of the 1,564 registered voters, and 85 percent of the voter turnout on Rota. Regular voters accounted for 788 of the favorable votes. Absentee voters boosted the number with 307 votes.

Locally grown shrimp available at Sabalu Market

Fresh shrimp locally grown by Saipan Aquaculture Co. Inc. are now being sold at Sabalu Market. Saipan Aquaculture operations manager Rommel G. Catalma said they started selling shrimp at the Susupe Civic Center 10 weeks ago. Catalma said when the company started they didn't have any idea how much they could sell so they only brought 30 lbs. However, in less than an hour Saipan Aquaculture has sold everything so they immediately called the farm and ordered the delivery of another 40 lbs.



MARK THIS DATE ... NOVEMBER 23, 2013

IT&E and the American Red Cross will be sponsoring a Donation Drive for the Victims of Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines. Stop by the IT&E Tent in front of the Marianas Business Plaza from 8am - 8pm.

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SSA staff arrested for alleged misuse of ex-wife's credit card

U.S. Social Security employee Augustus Loste was arrested Friday for allegedly stealing and misusing a credit card belonging to his former wife.

Surveillance cameras at Duty Free Shoppers and at Pretty Market, both located in Garapan, led the former wife and police to identify Loste, who was with a nightclub employee, buying items worth over \$3,000, according to a police report.

At Friday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that Loste, 42, is not eligible to qualify for assistance from the Public Defender's Office, considering that he is earning over \$75,000 a year and has some businesses.

Camacho allowed Loste to post a \$1,000 cash and \$9,000 unsecured bond.

Police arrested Loste on charges of theft, misuse of credit card, and forgery, after his former wife sought police's help last Monday, Nov. 11.

Police detective Catherine Pangelinan stated in her report that Eleonor Loste received a call that morning from a friend in the Philippines who asked her whether she bought \$3,000 worth of products at DFS and Pretty Market.

Eleonor's friend is the primary holder of the credit card. Eleonor later found out that her extension credit card was missing.

The following day, Eleonor asked DFS to allow her to review the surveillance camera footage. She identified the suspect as Loste, who was with a woman. Loste purchased an item worth \$2,550

at Bulgari and a \$132 item at Bio Therm Cosmetic.

Pangelinan said she was called over to DFS where she also reviewed the footage.

Last Wednesday, Eleonor received a call from her accountant that the defendant's brother-in-law came and dropped off some items from DFS.

Eleonor told police that she earlier called Loste and told him he will be in trouble for using her credit card.

Pangelinan said she and Eleonor proceeded to the latter's office where they learned that the items that were returned were a box containing a Bulgari necklace with a round

pendant and another item purchased from DFS, and some items that were purchased from Pretty Market.

Pangelinan said they also

reviewed the footage at Pretty Market and saw Loste, who was with the same woman, purchasing items in the store.

The detective said that Eleonor also revealed that during her inventory, she discovered that her Tiffany necklace worth

\$5,000 and a Bulgari necklace worth \$3,000 that were in her office were missing.

Eleonor also claimed that her key to a safe box at First Hawaiian Bank where she keeps her jewelry is also missing. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Employment Task Force to hold job fair

The CNMI Works! Target 2014 Task Force has set the dates of Nov. 22-23 for a job fair to be held at the Multi-Purpose Center from 8am to 2pm each day. A total of 298 letters were mailed out to companies on Saipan inviting their participation.

Confirmed companies so far are Hyatt Regency, Joeten Enterprises/Ace Hardware, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort, McDon-

ald's/RJ Corp./Cuts&Colours, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Stevedore, Herman's Bakery, Saipan World Resort, Pinnacle Staffing, LLC, and Triple J Saipan. Numerous government agencies are also participating to share their program services. Companies that have yet to register for the job fair are encouraged to participate.

Individuals seeking employ-

ment are urged to come prepared with your résumés and to also register online with www.marianaslabor.net.

The task force was organized by Gov. Eloy S. Inos to address the transition called for under Public Law 110-229. For more information/reservation on the job fair, contact 664-1708/57 or 664-3196. **(Office of the Governor)**

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Opinion

Hafa Adali!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Kicking Obamacare's problems down the road

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Friday, Nov. 15:

Faced with a growing public backlash to the 2010 health-care law's insurance reforms, the Obama administration decreed Thursday that consumers should be allowed to keep their current policies for another year, even if the coverage falls short of the law's requirements. The move is a desperate attempt to fulfill a promise President Obama never should have made, and the legal authority for it is sketchy. What's more, it may not be possible at this point for insurers to revive policies they've already canceled. Worst of all, Obama merely punted to next year the fight over the law's insurance reforms, which he has done a remarkably poor job of explaining and selling. The only good thing about the delay is that it might stop Congress from making a more damaging change to the law.

Insurers have been sending cancellation notices to millions of customers because most of the policies they've been selling to individuals—that is, those people not covered by large group plans at work—don't meet the new standards for affordability and coverage. The goal of the standards is a good one: to stop insurers from excluding or segregating people with preexisting conditions and potentially costly medical needs into more expensive risk pools. But many have struggled to find replacement coverage because of the nightmarish technical problems at HealthCare.gov, the website serving the 36 state exchanges operated by the federal government. And others have complained that a new policy would cost far more than their old one.

The administration responded Thursday with a letter to state insurance commissioners, advising them that any policy for individuals or small businesses could be renewed for next year regardless of whether it met the standards that go into effect Jan. 1. Insurers could not sign up new customers for noncompliant policies, however, and would have to tell renewing customers about their policy's shortcomings.

Some states, including California, have legal and regulatory barriers that will have to be cleared before insurers can revive noncompliant policies—assuming they want to. And even if they do, another round of cancellation notices would go out next year, leading to another outcry against the law's insurance reforms in the weeks before voters go to the polls. But at least Obama didn't go as far as House Republicans have proposed; the bill they're advancing would allow insurers to keep offering their current noncompliant health plans to whoever might buy them. The concern about lost coverage is valid. But rather than delaying or giving up on badly needed changes to the individual insurance market, the administration and lawmakers should be putting more effort into helping people enroll in comprehensive new plans they can afford.

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The winter of our disconnect

A *Brush Dance* calendar sent to us by an SF colleague has the following writing for November: "Promise yourself not to solve all of life's problems at once." We call this month the winter of our discomfort, a play on Shakespeare's lines made famous by Steinbeck's *The Winter of our Discontent*. The aftermath of Yolanda's fury (Haiyan in international winds) caught the world's attention, mobilizing flurries of compassion from many sectors, with the dire reality of logistics and of safety net infrastructures in tatters or just plainly absent now finding desperate rages, of opportunistic looting, and even armed rebellion from victims and suffering masses. It got us unhinged; thus, our "disconnect."

Leyte in the Philippines was a stumping ground when we lived in Lapu Lapu City in Cebu Province, locale to the provincial airport, now the hub of national and international relief efforts as the Tacloban airport is slowly getting useful. We promoted corporate procedures in the new global economic structures, trained folks in participatory methods as local folks shed off their reliance on top-down "charity," and drummed awareness of the new humanization of world culture that impinged on everyone's consciousness everywhere! We heeded Pierre Tielhard de Chardin's admonition: "The task before us now, if we shall not perish, is to shed off our ancient prejudices and rebuild the earth."

Our investment, personally and professionally, was considerable, from southern Luzon to northern Mindanao and the whole swath of the Visayas from Borongan of Eastern Samar to the NIDO fields of Palawan, and many points in between.

To be sure, the area spanning the San Bernardino Strait between Samar and Leyte is not where one would locate Benigno Noynoy Aquino's popularity zone. The President was once characterized by a former campaign aide as "not one of the brightest lights in the national marquee." Not surprisingly, he committed a graceless *faux pas* when he contradicted the published estimate of 10,000 casualties in Tacloban and pegged it at 25 percent of that number. The latest count is now proving his naiveté. His claim to fame is being an offspring of the Ninoy and Cory Aquino household, blight to the Marcos regime, and Leyte is a Romualdez country with its unrepentant *matron d'eterne* of extravagance Imelda Romualdez Marcos and her extended family maintaining a grip on politics.

We did once date a fair maiden from Palo, the devastated area south of Tacloban, in our late teens, visited Isabel a few times when it was just opening as the locale for an industrial park, and facilitated numerous cooperative and credit union financial operations from Catarman of Northern Samar to Maasin of Southern Leyte, laying our head on hard boards and puffed pillows in places like Catbalogan, Ormoc, Baybay, Sugod, etc.

We were also involved in natural resource management from the

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

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uplands to the nearshore in now globally familiar places like Bohol (recent site of a 7+ magnitude quake), Siquijor, Cebu, the Negros provinces of famed Bacolod and Dumaguete cities, and among the lilting cadences of the voices of Iloilo.

While we would like to think that the area is a bit better off than when we first hit its shores a good 50 years ago, we had never been one to be anxious about the marks of accomplishment as we were simply determined to be there and with disciplined colleagues to "just do it"! Some of my co-workers, however, are not as detached, particularly of the current dispensation. Considerable emotional investments continue to flow even as we learn that a Pinoy physical therapist from New York got on the first plane he could catch to personally go to Palo in search of family and do an onsite ocular look-see on his ancestral home no longer visible on Google Earth pictures.

We find the varied responses from the international community encouraging, including those from Indonesia and Malaysia. I am reminded of my sister-in-law's narration of the time she and my brother were in an Indonesia market where he tried to bargain his way through some of the artifacts. His Ilongga wife pulled him over and whispered: "I already know what their real price is." "How do you know," my Iloco brother asked. "*Nag-bi-bisaya sila, eh!*" (They are speaking Visayan)," she replied. Though ASEAN collaborators, the three countries might just find again their common ethno-linguistic heritage!

In a world where we spend millions on drones for legalized murder, and can position supplies and materials to enable deployment of a battalion of Marines anywhere in the world in no time, have floating hospitals that can be rapidly staffed, and satellite photo capabilities 24/7 of any location on the planet to update databases accessible to the general public in the cloud, our disconnect represents simply a wipe-out of all previous methods of relief delivery in the past. With strong quakes and fierce winds getting more common, it is time to get back to our drawing boards, institutionalize relief efforts, so it will not take six days to clear a tarmac or body bag the dead when another disaster hits anywhere in the planet.

Ang aking dos sentimos! (Para mi dos centimos, for my two-cent piece!)

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Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Growing indigenous discontent

The discussion of indigenous rights focusing on greater effective control of the destiny of the CNMI has recently taken on some lively debate.

Though the sentiments have merit on their own, the positions expressed often come with hyperbolic rhetoric, as though the CNMI is a sovereign state. Let's get this straight: the CNMI is a political subservient (possession) of the U.S. federal government per the Covenant Agreement, like it or not.

Therefore it seems most fitting that the discussion focuses on responsible and constructive narratives on how the relationship could be improved based on the agreement. Beyond what's in the agreement, it's basically redundancy that feeds only the ego after which it quickly fades into the ash heap of history.

Now, if there are fundamental flaws under the current arrangement, it's good to list them and placed under proper framework for discussion, including realistic plans on how to secure the aspired improvement. I raise this point in that any fundamental change would require "mutual consent," given the permanency of the agreement. In other words, if the other side decides against any further negotiations then the issue is moot.

The trashed alternative is the 902 talks, of which we haven't heard anything from the other side of the Pacific. It's a vehicle so provided for refinement of a now highly dysfunctional relationship. The former governor decided to terminate it when the CNMI was granted a non-voting delegate. He confuses executive versus legislative functions. Now we're stuck in the filthy swamp of self-inflicted disorientation struggling to understand "what is north." Notice, the issue isn't directional either.

As we rue our frustrations over perceptual shortsightedness of the agreement, perhaps we can begin the long soul search into our achievements in fostering strong self-government, including specific achievements justifying a relationship beyond what we have today. Do we do it now or bide for more time until in fact we've sufficiently attained real political maturity? The proof is in the pudding and I can't quite find realistic performance rating justifying morphing into larger responsibility in self-government.

If I may illustrate: It takes political maturity to *plan for* our future in real time fashion. We haven't even realistically downsized a leviathan government to cut spending on spending. We're afraid

Preparing

The poor and weak still took the brunt of it. But so unexpected and uncontrollable was the fury of Typhoon Yolanda that it put even the rich and powerful through a day, or night, of absolute terror.

Tacloban councilor Cristina Gonzalez and her husband, Mayor Alfred Romualdez, were chief among them. As Cristina told CNN, as soon as the "angry wind" rose, she and her two daughters and maid fled their house which faced the ocean and sought refuge in their Toyota Innova. Within minutes the van started filling up with water. Realizing they were going to drown if they stayed there, they decided to swim back to the house. Fortunately, all of them were good swimmers—life beside the sea had made them so—and they made it to the upper floor. By that time the lower floor had filled with water, too.

At the height of the storm, their roof flew off, and the push and pull of the water—this was what a storm surge meant!—carrying debris threatened to sweep their house to the sea. They held on to whatever they could for dear life as wind and water swirled around them. And they prayed and prayed.

Cristina and Alfred came out of it with only the clothes on their backs.

I can imagine how anyone who just went through this would greatly mind hearing, even if from the President himself, that the reason one went through this was that one did not prepare. Which indeed was what the President suggested last Monday: that Leyte's, specifically Tacloban's, officials had been remiss in their duties, which caused their province and city undue grief.

Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez, Alfred's cousin, gave the President the benefit of the doubt, saying he probably had not yet been apprised of the situation when he said that—though that is surprising, given that the President himself had flown there and seen the extent of the devastation with his own eyes. He himself, said Martin, would only say everything humanly possible was done to prepare for the supertyphoon. The same thing would have happened to Metro Manila had it lain squarely in Yolanda's

path. "No one here or abroad could have prepared for a catastrophe of these proportions."

Indeed, how on earth, or on these shores, does one prepare for something like this? The Metropolitan Cathedral in Palo, Leyte, had its roof wrenched off and its ceiling gutted by the storm. The occupants of Tacloban's hotels saw their windows shatter, scattering glass on their floors, and wind and rain howl in their rooms. Where do you go to hide when these fortifications offer no sanctuary? And when, like most Filipinos, you are poor and helpless and have no means to rush off, children in tow, to them?

James Reynolds, a cameraman and veteran of 35 typhoons, testifies to the apocalyptic proportions of Nature's ravaging. "I've chased nothing like this before. This was just totally off the scale both in terms of the violence of the storm and then the human tragedy, the consequences of such a powerful natural event hitting a city of 200,000 people. Scientists are saying it's a candidate for one of the strongest storms to ever hit land. From a personal point of view, this was the most calamitous event I've witnessed."

The only way you can really prepare for something like this is to believe the unbelievable and expect the unexpected. Or understand that things aren't going to get better, they are going to get worse. The worst is not behind us, it is in front of us. And prayer, or prayer alone, won't see us through. I'm not knocking faith and prayer, I'm just plugging for that saying "Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition." There are practicalities to consider, too.

It helps to know the science. That science tells us that disasters are our new way of life, or death, and the unexpected is the new norm. "We already knew," said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "that on a global scale, Earth is warmer today than it was over much of the past 2,000 years. Now we know that it is warmer than most of the past 11,300 years—the entire period of human civilization." By rights, we should just be hitting the tail end of Earth's cooling period, "but obviously we are not." Global temperatures have risen by 0.8 Celsius, and the planet has broken records in heat in the past 10 years alone. Many

Would Rep. George Miller and his cabal of liberal progressives have imposed the same standard in his backyard or was it easier among U.S. citizens situated some eight thousand miles from DC? Nothing can be further from the truth!

The mishandling of ill-conceived federal policies only feeds suspicion and distrust between the CNMI and Washington. Perhaps it is "paternalism" that most returning scholars find despicably disagreeable, thus the growing urgency to seek for greater self-government. Such sentiment, though, still requires a sense of responsibility that begins with strengthening our democratic institutions right here at home. It begins with the self!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Beyond intent

Now it should be understood that land alienation was intended to neutralize the land tenure system temporarily for 25 years to prevent the gobbling up of real estate in the CNMI by huge U.S. corporations. This was offered by the U.S. contingent during the negotiations when fear surfaced of the possible of loss of Marianas land through exploitation. It wasn't intended to permanently do away with the Marianas land tenure system.

But we've overlooked the legal intent by shifting it into a political agenda promoting limiting landownership to people of NMI descent. Legally, it violates indigenous rights to property. It's a right that is constitutionally unalienable. In other words, your right to your private land can't be altered nor violated.

Throughout the years, I've seen official unsanctioned trips to foreign countries in search of some form of assistance. We openly ignore that issues relating to foreign affairs are solely the purview of the U.S. Department of State.

Countries nearby are fully wary of their diplomatic ties with the U.S. and in no way would any of them chance offending the U.S. government. The net result of the trips pans out to zero sum. Representatives from governments we've visited would simply report to the U.S. Department of State that the "FYI, the CNMI is here."

Whatever form of assistance may be available, we also never knew that they could only be granted or extended to island nations with "diplomatic ties." The CNMI is a political subservient of the U.S. and therefore lacks "diplomatic" relationship with countries in the region. Clear?

THERE'S THE RUB

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Conrado de Quiros is a regular columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.



experts blame Hurricane "Sandy" on climate change.

We can pretty much do the same for Yolanda. World Bank president Jim Yong Kim, who was tapped by U.S. President Barack Obama to study climate change, warns that rising sea levels (global warming is melting the polar ice caps, which has accounted for a fifth in the rise of sea levels since 1992) "could inundate coastal areas with the most vulnerable cities found in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, the Philippines, Venezuela and Vietnam." He said 97 percent of scientists agreed that it was human activity that was causing climate change. "As someone who has lived in the world of science for a long time, 97 percent is unheard-of consensus."

The inundation is happening even as we speak. If the nightmare in Leyte doesn't convince us that the new normal is a state of fragility, of precariousness, nothing will. I do hope the President raises the point when he speaks before the world, an opportunity that the current cataclysm has afforded him (we have become the cynosure of the world's eyes for such a God-awful reason). Being told we have a strong spirit, an indomitable will, a spectacular resilience, is fine, but we can do better with America doing its part in stopping the killing of the planet. It has been remiss on this strongly, indomitably, spectacularly. With the most horrendous effects on the world's coastline—and we are nothing if not one gigantic coastline.

Otherwise, we'll just be preparing for the "unpreparable."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼75
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼74

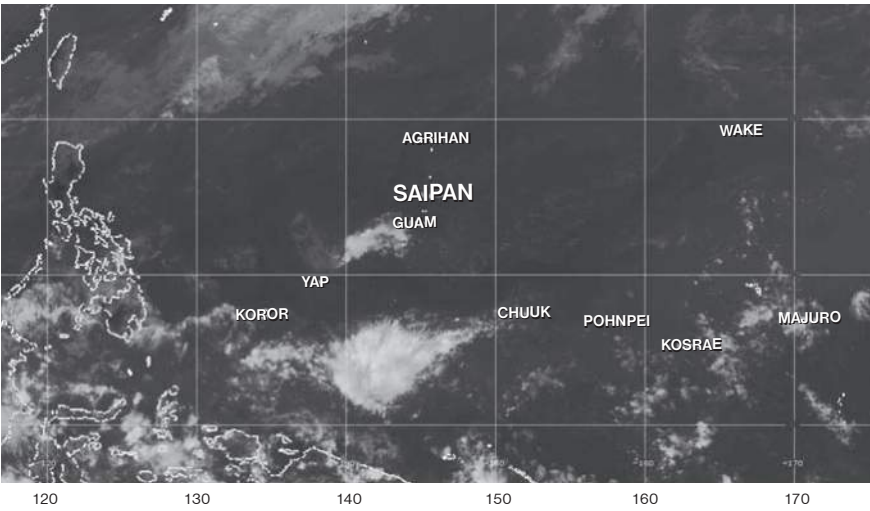
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲69 ▼59
Beijing	Windy	▲48 ▼26
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲82 ▼72
London	Showers	▲48 ▼34
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼51
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲81 ▼56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼73
New York	Cloudy	▲62 ▼58
Osaka	Sunny	▲56 ▼48
Paris	Fog	▲43 ▼39
Pusan	Windy	▲54 ▼40
Rome	Showers	▲68 ▼56
Salem	Showers	▲51 ▼46
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼49
Seoul	Windy	▲44 ▼32
Tokyo	Sunny	▲63 ▼47
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲67 ▼62

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
8:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:18 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low pressure is just northeast of Okinawa with cloudiness and patchy rain northwest of a line from 21N130E to 25N140E. A surface trough between Yap and Guam runs from 11N141E to 13N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 75 miles of the trough axis. A weak circulation well southeast of Yap is near 3N144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 150 miles of 3N143E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers over parts of the Marshall Islands between 7N and 11N from 166E to 171E. A weak circulation east of Wake Island near the dateline is at 19N178E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms along a weak cold front are within 50 miles of a line from 16N178E to 19N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:17 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	7:05 AM	7:25 PM
Wednesday	7:54 AM	8:14 PM
Thursday	8:43 AM	9:02 PM
Friday	9:32 AM	9:47 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR) DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 OZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Kiribati faces its future, and a rising ocean

Recently, a curious case appeared before New Zealand's High Court. The plaintiff, Ioane Teitiota, a resident of the island-nation of Kiribati, was seeking refugee status in New Zealand. His reasoning? Climate change and rising sea levels were making Kiribati uninhabitable. "There's no future for us when we go back to Kiribati," Teitiota argued.

I used to live in Kiribati, a re-

mote nation of 33 atolls in the equatorial Pacific scattered over an area nearly two-thirds as large as the continental United States. When I lived there, in the late 1990s, the island elders were beginning to notice a strange new phenomenon. The spring tides, or king tides as they are sometimes called, were beginning to breach the typical high-water mark on the beach, inundating homes, flooding pig pens and stream-

ing over the causeways that linked the islets of South Tarawa, where most of the nation's 100,000 inhabitants resided.

In response, many families built sea walls made of coral, hoping to forestall the damage inflicted by the rising ocean. Surely, it was thought, these super tides were an anomaly. For more than 1,000 years, these islanders had lived on their atolls, the slim crests of undersea volcanoes, not more than 200 yards

wide and rarely rising more than a couple of feet above sea level, without feeling threatened by the ocean.

Not long ago, I visited Kiribati and was struck by the changes. Those sea walls, built with hope, now look like the grim remains of ancient fortresses destroyed long ago. The coconut trees near shore—the source of the nutritious toddy that children drink for breakfast and provider of the copra that Kiribati depends on for its meager income—stand like mute sentries, dead and useless as they succumb to the tide. The groundwater is now so brackish that gardens refuse to grow.

On some of its islands, such as Abaiang, villages have been swept away; all that remains are the thatched roofs of homes and meeting houses, cresting above the water. It isn't storms that are causing this ruination but rather the slow, steady rise of the tides that twice daily inundate the islands.

In response, the government of Kiribati bought land on the island of Vanua Levu in Fiji, where its people can again grow food and, eventually, resettle as their country sinks below the waves. "This is the last resort," President Anote Tong has said. "There's no way out of this one. Our people will have to move as the tides have reached our homes and villages."

By **J. MAARTEN TROOST**
Los Angeles Times

J. Maarten Troost is the author of The Sex Lives of Cannibals and most recently, Headhunters on My Doorstep. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



The United Nations-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in a report released in September, concluded that climate change is unequivocal and that we can expect sea levels to rise upward of three feet by 2100. The report's scientists were 95 percent certain that such changes to our planet are the direct consequence of human activity and resultant emissions. In a report leaked Friday, the IPCC noted that as a result of climate change, we can expect food production to decline by 2 percent each decade for the rest of the century, even as demand soars.

Meanwhile, in the northern Chinese city of Harbin in October, the index that measures particulate matter reached 1,000, far exceeding the 300 reading that the World Health Organization deems hazardous. In Singapore, the city suffocates from the smog caused by fires started by farmers clearing brush in Indonesia, the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. And in the U.S., we celebrate as

the boom in shale and fracking has allowed us to surpass Saudi Arabia as the world's leading oil producer. No wonder the Ford F-Series pickup truck is the bestselling vehicle in America.

We don't think much about climate change and rising sea levels here in the U.S. Beyond a few gardeners, birders and hikers who notice the changes in our own ecosystem, we live on, blissfully unaware of our changing Earth. Our storms—Katrina, Sandy—are dismissed as once-in-a-century events. Our heat waves and droughts? Well, they've happened before.

But out there, on faraway islands like Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, the Maldives, their world is ending, and soon, millions of climate refugees like Teitiota will wander the planet looking for a new home as theirs go the way of Atlantis. Today, the islanders are the canaries in the coal mine. The least we could do is pay attention. After all, their present portends our future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Final words on Article 12

"What is the worse right in America" was a question raised by my professor at Georgetown University in D.C. I will give the answer later to give readers a chance to digest it before answering. But my mother used to tell me "a hard head makes a soft butt or *dagan*" from the spankings I would get for being hardheaded. If you were ever a child, you were hardheaded too but more important is the fact that we have all had to learn some lessons the hard way and it usually hurts. Well, the hardheaded scenario is what we are facing with Article 12 and those who don't want to compromise to include equality among U.S. citizens.

I used to teach my Government students that the principles and values of America are just as strong as the Ten Commandments but they didn't get it until I did a little teaching by giving them this example: There is no rationale for "Thou shalt not kill"—meaning that killing is *not* OK regardless of the scenario. Well, all men are created equal, meaning there is *no* scenario for inequality to be OK. The Commandments and the founding principles of democracy, freedom, and equality can never be circumvented in a righteous manner. I can't count the number of times equality has

been tested in the past, but we all know that each time equality won out in the end. It took almost 300 years for African-Americans to earn that right for themselves and all the people of color who were considered not equal based on race, color, sex, creed or religion. So, if people in this day and age still don't get it, that equality can't be beaten in the long run, I will just have to give up on them and let them learn the hard way. But the sad and even funny part is that the opponents to equality in Article 12 may be dead and gone when equality does finally win out over this racism and discrimination.

The comparison with the American Indians is ridiculous. Their reservations are exempted from federal intervention because they literally gave up the *entire* United States to the outsiders. But the CNMI has not given up *anything* to America but our soldiers' services and lives who are fighting to help other people get what we need here—equality. The CNMI has not earned such a right of exemption of rights to U.S. citizens in the CNMI. The funny part for me is that the CNMI already has homesteads that are in effect "*reservations*" of land for the local people to assure that no local will ever be landless, which rebukes the claim of

locals becoming landless.

The simple 1,2,3 solution for Article 12 is: One, a 1 + 1 solution by granting the right of one house lot and one business lot for any adoptee of a local and any U.S. citizen who has lived in the CNMI for one year. Two, give private landowners their right to sell but encourage limited and even no sales. Three, change the government land lease program to a perpetual and progressive tax program that provides a shared virtual ownership between the CNMI and the investors. Article 12 will never be an honorable document as it is written and these three changes are all that are needed to fix Article 12 and our land use dynamics for economic growth and expansion to find real prosperity.

P.S.: Don't forget that time is truly on my side as history has already proven I'm right and those who don't learn the lessons history has taught us, especially on rights and equality, are doomed to repeat the same mistake! *Adios* and pray this will not be another "I told you so" as the worst right in America is the right to be a failure in life and in dealing with issues like Article 12!

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Some real action, please!

Government just praying for the typhoon victims? Yes, I believe in the profound power of prayer and I can hold several testimonials in my own family that I attribute to prayer's healing and life saving power for both body and spirit. So I'm in no way belittling the CNMI government's declarations of their thoughts and prayers going out to the people of the Philippines.

But let me just remind you all that if it were not for the Philippines and its enthusiastic workers, the CNMI wouldn't even have an economy, boosted up at best from U.S. federal aid to boot. The people of the CNMI owe a profound debt of gratitude to Filipinos for the service they have provided the CNMI over the decades and the Barbe-

cue Bud Boys up on Capital Hill need to do more than issue paper statements. They need to dig deep into their collective treasuries and donate \$\$\$\$ to the victims, and send aid directly. Not let other non-government groups, local charities, businesses, or associations on island do it for them and then hide behind their efforts to look as if the CNMI government cares, or did something.

There are a number of ways the CNMI government can put hard assets into the mix to help the people, so NOW is the time to show leadership and compassion and do something tangible. Well-crafted and measured consensus building statements that keep everyone's options open—penned by American

lawyers getting their paycheck from the CNMI taxpayer—should not take the place of real action by Capital Hill's fearless leaders. Why not send a few newly minted Bud Boys on a two-week mission to the hardest hit part, where the risks of cholera infection, typhoid, diarrhea, and mob assault is the highest, and let them dig in with solidarity with the locals there and say thanks to the Filipino people there from the pits of desperation those people are feeling. And not from the pen of a lawyer in his air-conditioned office who is off to the Hyatt for happy hour after he finishes his letter then hits the save and send button.

Chris West
Santa Monica, Calif.



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES



RFQ14-GOV-017

Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement Project, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 pm, November 22, 2013 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement Project is made possible by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM. (CNMI local time), on December 11, 2013.**

The SOQ shall be marked "**Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement Project, RFQ14-GOV-017**". For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on December 11, 2013.** Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on December 11, 2013,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 11, 2013** AND must be received no later than **December 20, 2013.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos
Governor, CNMI

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

'Being a priest is an intense battle'

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

"To be a priest in today's world, in today's society is a battle. It always has been, and today the battle is very intense." These were the words of newly ordained priest Fr. Luis Venancio Benavente Camacho Jr. in his sermon at his very first Thanksgiving Mass at Mt. Carmel Cathedral last Wednesday, Nov. 13.

"In the past we had protection. There was no TV and there was no Internet. You had the village and you have the parish in the middle that was the center," said Camacho. "People went there and had activities. Today, you go into a house and maybe kids who have never

been to the States have everything from the States."

Camacho said it is so much more difficult for people to keep themselves with Jesus Christ and that the young demographic in today's technologically advanced world are distracted by so many things.

Camacho held his first Mass and sermon in Chamorro in front of hundreds of locals and several priests from the island's parishes. A native of Guam, Camacho considers Saipan his second home.

"Saipan for me is a second home. Since I was little we would come twice a year [to Saipan] and I feel like this is kind of a homecoming for me. I feel like whenever I am here I can be myself. As I call

» Newly ordained priest with NMI roots holds first Thanksgiving Mass on Saipan



Fr. Luis Camacho Jr. opens his first Mass on Wednesday at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. THOMAS MANGLONA II

this is a choice the he made freely and I one-hundred percent support it," his father said. "He could have done so many things and my projections are different but seeing that he has this happiness and that he is joyful is the only thing I see that matters."

Mayor Donald G. Flores, who served as an altar server with Fr. Camacho's father as a child, was among the hundreds of Saipan residents who attended the Mass.

"I was very happy that he [Camacho] served his first Mass [on] Saipan," Flores said. "We hope that he will be stationed on Saipan because we lack priests on the island."

Guam Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap. D. D. presided over the hour-long Mass and mentored Camacho for the past 10 years.

"I have watched him grow and he has really grown a lot. I have watched him grow even spiritually," Apuron said. "I am very confident that he will be very genuine and a good priest in Guam or anywhere where he may be called to serve."

Saipan's Fr. Ken Hezel found Camacho's Mass to be very inspirational. Hezel, who has been ordained for over 40 years now, described Camacho's service as "fresh and reflective."

Camacho, 28, is the first Chamorro priest ordained from the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Seminary of Guam. He is also the second Chamorro to be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Guam this year.

Camacho graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School in 2003.

Camacho was in the Guam seminary for almost 10 years and spent three of those years in the itinerancy. He resided in Israel for a year in 2005 and then spent six months in the Asan Parish and a year and a half on the itinerant team in Washington D.C. from January 2010 to August 2011.

Camacho obtained his bachelor's degree in theology last spring and is currently assigned to the Parish of Nuestra Senora Dela Paz y Buen Viaje in Chalan Pago, Guam.

Guam my home, I also call Saipan my home."

In a later interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Camacho shared that the world's youth today hardly thinks of the priesthood as an option.

"It is true that to be a priest is not a career. Kids want a career, they want something to give them success and a lot of money. The priesthood is not a career, it is simply a vocation," he said. "The only thing I can say is that Jesus Christ does not take anything away but gives everything."

Camacho said that when he decided to join the priesthood, he had to renounce marriage, having children, and going to places where he wanted to go—but added that God returned all of that back when he was ordained.

"He has given me spiritual children, more brothers and sisters than I can count, and He has given me hundreds of houses now that I have entered the Parish."

Camacho's father said he could not be more proud of his son. "I am very happy because



From row, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Guam priest Fr. Michael Vincent Jucutan, Fr. Luis Camacho, Guam Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, and Fr. Florentino pose for a photo flanked by several other Saipan priests at Camacho's first Mass on Saipan.

THOMAS MANGLONA II



Hundreds of Saipan residents gather at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall for dinner after the Thanksgiving Mass. THOMAS MANGLONA II



Hundreds of residents fall in line to kiss the hand of newly ordained Fr. Luis Benavente Camacho. THOMAS MANGLONA II

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Hope Yvonne Ramson, a first grade teacher at 7th Day Adventist, acquiring U.S. citizenship means she gets to participate in the nation's political process.

"I hope in the near future that I will be able to vote," said the beaming Ramson in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Friday morning as she emerged from the courtroom in federal court, where 13 others took their oath and Pledge of Allegiance as new U.S. citizens.

Originally from Jamaica, Ramson lived in the U.S. mainland for more than 10 years. She came to Saipan in October 2012 to work as a teacher.

Ramson's students watched the naturalization ceremony that was conducted by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

For Jesus Sanchez Aquino, a 51-year-old maintenance worker at the William S. Reyes Elementary School, he is overjoyed that he finally became a U.S. citizen.

Aquino, who hails from Manila, Philippines, first came to Saipan in 1983 to work as a janitor at Joeten. He married Maria Ichichara Aquino and got his "green card" in 2003. Aquino tried to stay in the U.S. mainland but couldn't stand the cold weather, making him decide to come back to Saipan.

Abel Ramos Valenzuela, 56, a maintenance worker at Dandan Elementary School, said his U.S. citizenship means traveling off-island will now be easier.

"I'm so happy. I've been dreaming of this for a long time," Valenzuela said, who is from Caloocan, Philippines. He first came to the island in 1983 to work as a construction worker. He married Lourdes Borja Valenzuela in 1986 and they have six children.

Maria Luisa Dela Cruz Ernest, president of the Society for Human Resources Management-CNMI Chapter, is also among the 14 newest U.S. citizens. She is married



The 14 newest U.S. citizens pose for a group photo with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Dr. Edgard G. Tudor, and Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde after the naturalization ceremony on Friday morning.



Maria Luisa Dela Cruz Ernest, president of the Society for Human Resources Management-CNMI Chapter, proudly shows her certificate after the naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday. Also in the photo are Ernest's husband, former chief prosecutor Michael L. Ernest, and Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

to former chief prosecutor Michael L. Ernest.

The 10 other newest citizens

are Ricardo Pescante Enriquez, Evangeline De Leon Galvez,

Michelle Zhou Gibson, Glo-

ria Curameng Hocog, Arsenia Francisco Litulumar, Nelia Calage Llana, Sheila Tagum Pangelinan, Byron Gabito Pitel, Roemar Miras Segotier, and Kedar Bahadur Shrestha.

Dr. Edgar G. Tudor, a retired U.S. Marine Corps who was a guest speaker at the ceremony, said the U.S. is the greatest country in the world not because it has a large Army or Navy, but because "when you are a U.S. citizen you are in control of your destiny."

"No one determines your destiny but you. No one can tell you how high you can rise, or where your children can live, or what you can accomplish in your life. That choice is yours," Tudor said.

In his case, Tudor said, he is an American citizen by an acci-

dent of birth as both sides of his family came from Europe during the early 1700's and 1800's.

"Members of my family went through the same fight to become citizens of this country that you have gone through. This makes us equal. I am proud and humbled at this fact," he said.

Tudor said he did not truly become an American worthy of his citizenship until he served the country when he chose the

U.S. Marine Corps.

"I felt that I had an obligation to serve my country to earn the rights that I had been blessed with by virtue of my birth," he said. "We served, so that all Americans could have their freedoms, and so that you could have yours."

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde presented to the court the 14 petitioners, who are mostly originally from the Philippines.

US immigration relief measures available for Filipinos impacted by Typhoon Haiyan

In light of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (named "Yolanda" by Philippine authorities), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services would like to remind Filipino nationals that they may be eligible for certain immigration relief measures if requested.

USCIS understands that a natural disaster can affect an individual's ability to establish or maintain lawful immigration status in the United States. Therefore, Filipino nationals impacted by Typhoon Haiyan may be eligible to benefit from the following immigration relief measures:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status for an individual currently in the United States, even when the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;

- Extension of certain grants of parole made by USCIS;

- Extension of certain grants of advance parole, and expedited processing of advance parole requests;

- Expedited adjudication

and approval, where possible, of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;

- Expedited processing of immigrant petitions for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, LPRs;

- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate; and

- Assistance to LPRs stranded overseas without immigration or travel documents, such as Permanent Resident Cards (green cards). USCIS and the Department of State will coordinate on these matters when the LPR is stranded in a place that has no local USCIS office.

For more information on USCIS humanitarian programs, visit www.uscis.gov or call the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

For information regarding disaster-related email scams, visit <http://www.us-cert.gov> "Alerts and Tips." (USCIS)



Waving U.S. flags, 7th Day Adventist students join their teacher, Hope Yvonne Ramson, for a group photo during Friday's naturalization ceremony in federal court. Also in the photo are Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Dr. Edgar G. Tudor, and Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

FHB donates \$100,000 for Philippine relief efforts

» Bank makes gifts to the American Red Cross and the Filipino Community Center

HAGATÑA, GUAM—First Hawaiian Bank is donating \$100,000 toward the Philippines Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts. A donation of \$50,000 will be made to the American Red Cross and another \$50,000 will go to the Filipino

Community Center (FilCom Center) in Hawaii, according to an announcement made Thursday by Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian Bank president and chief executive officer.

“The magnitude of the devastation of Super Typhoon

Haiyan to both the Philippines and its people is staggering and we wish to extend our prayers and heartfelt support at this time,” Harrison said. “This donation also recognizes the significant contributions our Filipino communities have made in Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan. Many of our own employees have family members and loved ones

in the Philippines affected by this disaster.”

To assist its personal account customers who are interested in sending support directly to families and friends, the bank will waive wire transfer fees to the Philippines through Dec. 31, 2013.

The American Red Cross is a non-profit organization that provides humanitarian aid,

shelter, and food to survivors of disasters. Supplies and volunteer rescue teams are being sent to support the recovery and relief efforts for Super Typhoon Haiyan.

FilCom Center is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that provides social, economic, and education services for the Filipino community and continues to promote and pre-

serve the cultural traditions of the Philippines. FilCom Center has supported numerous disaster relief efforts in the Philippines since its establishment in 2002.

First Hawaiian Bank is Hawaii’s oldest and largest bank with over \$16.7 billion in total assets and 62 branches throughout Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI. **(FHB)**

UFO fund drive for PH victims reaches \$7K

Thanks to a flurry of donations from corporate donors, the United Filipino Organization’s fundraising campaign for victims of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) has reached \$7,000 as of yesterday, according to UFO president Annamae Adaza.

Of the more than a dozen corporate donors, the biggest monetary donations so far have come from Godfather’s Bar with \$1,000. Genpro International Wholesale Co., meanwhile, has turned over \$500 to UFO.

Employees of an international restaurant franchise in Garapan, which call themselves Bangon Kabayan Group, also donated \$700 in cash apart from in-kind items.

Other companies that have donated are the following: LBC Mabuhay, Docomo Pacific, IP&E (Shell gas stations), She-

nanigan’s Restaurant, Pacific Marianas and Industrial Corp., HBR International, Barney’s Pizza, Don Pedro Restaurant, Cargo Express, KWA 100.3

FM, Dollars Day, and Marianas Business Plaza. The High Pitch Band also donated money to the fund drive.

On behalf of UFO, Adaza said

she couldn’t thank the companies and individuals on Saipan enough for opening their hearts and their wallets for victims of Yolanda, which devastated large

swats of central Visayas, left almost 100 percent of Tacloban in ruins, and killed nearly 4,000.

She added that UFO didn’t come to these companies to solicit donations and that these businesses called the group, which she said is a testament

to UFO’s trustworthiness in the community.

Aside from the corporate donations, UFO has also been collecting donations from their booths at the Tuesday Street Market and the Thursday Street Market at the Garapan Fishing Base, the Sabalu Market beside the Susupe Civic Center, and the Saturday flea market at the Marianas Business Plaza.

All cash donations will be remitted to Sagip Kapamilya of the ABS-CBN Foundation.

UFO’s fundraising drive for victims of Yolanda will be accepting donations until Nov. 29 only, while in-kind donations will be accepted by UFO and LBC Mabuhay until Nov. 30.

Those who still wish to donate can call Adaza at 483-5237 or UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021. **(Mark Rabago)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jury selection today is cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel “AS” that the JURY SELECTION scheduled for Monday, Nov. 18, 2013, at 8:30am in Courtroom 220A is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information contact SP Deputy Clerk Eva-Sophia Calvo at the Superior Court at telephone no. 236-9700 Ext 773. **(PR)**

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Nov. 20 from 5am to 3pm
- Nov. 21 and 22 from 1pm to 6:30pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **(PR)**



Godfather's Bar owners Ron Biggers and Scott Dottino pose with UFO president Annamae Adaza, right, and UFO secretary Mario Mayugo during a check donation turnover ceremony.

MCS AlumKnight shines in world's performing arts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A homegrown talent is making a name for herself in the world of performance arts. What started out as a debut performance in Mount Carmel School's 1996 production of *Godspell* has turned into a lifelong passion for Lori Mendez-Loeb, a 1996 AlumKnight.

Since this first performance, Mendez-Loeb has achieved incredible distinction in the performing arts world, having taken center stage in numerous productions, both nationally and internationally. Balancing her passion for performing with her love for her family, she is a living embodiment of the school's trademark values of faith, excellence, and success.

Mendez-Loeb graduated from Mount Carmel in 1996 and signed up for the U.S. Army Reserve as a combat engineer while attending the University of Guam as a communications major. While there, she joined the University Singers and has performed in a variety of shows such as *The Wonderful Music of Disney* and *Cabaret*, as well as masterworks such as the Durufle and Brahms Requiem, some of which were toured through Saipan and Japan.

With the UOG University Singers and their director, Dr. Lisa Lutter, Mendez-Loeb helped form Guam's first community choir, Cantate, which performed for the Opera of the Pacific in their staged productions of Puccini's *La Boheme* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. From that humble beginning, Cantate would go on to win the gold medal in the World Projects International Music Festival in Sydney, Australia in 2001 and perform in music festivals in Beijing, China; at Lincoln Center in New York City; alongside Grammy-award winning Chanticleer in San Francisco; and with legendary choral conductors such as LA Master Chorale's Paul Salamonovich and Nordic Choir's Dr. Weston Noble.

Mendez-Loeb continues to serve as an active member of the Cantate board, which continues to promote and produce concerts in Guam. Cantate's most recent events include the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School 1996 AlumKnight, Lori Mendez-Loeb, top left, and the cast of Tacoma Opera's production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* in a group photo.

2013 Pacific Summer Music Festival, which featured the Grammy-nominated string ensemble, Quartet San Francisco, and a combined goodwill tour with the Ramapo Chorale of Russia and Estonia.

In 2007, Mendez-Loeb moved to New York to pursue every singer's big dream. While there, she served as a soprano section leader for the St. Gabriel RC Church in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey; sang with the Ramapo Chorale and CantaNova, who competed and won many medals in a music festival in Pardubice, Czech Republic; and was accepted in the Scuola Italia, a program for opera singers.

Mendez-Loeb moved to the West Coast in 2009 with her future husband, Robert Loeb, and lived in Southern California for six months before moving to Las Vegas, Nevada, while Robert was deployed to Iraq. While in Las Vegas, she sang for the Las Vegas Diocesan Church, the Las Vegas Master Singers, and Signature Productions in their production of *The Sound of Music*.

In 2010, she got married and moved to Washington State where she currently resides. Since coming to Washington, Mendez-Loeb has sung with the Bremerton Symphony Chorale in the select ensemble for the Mozart Coronation Mass (2010) and the Bainbridge Island Chorale (2011).

More recently, she was ac-

cepted as a soprano in the Tacoma Opera Chorus for their 2014 production of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and is singing for Grammy-award winning composer Eric Whitacre in his Virtual Choir's performance of *Fly to Paradise*, which was presented to the Royal Family. The virtual choir performance broke records with over 5,000 singers

representing 101 countries.

Last month, Mendez-Loeb performed in the Tacoma Opera's production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

"As you see, my life is full of new adventure and fun! I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to stay home and raise my family and still have the chance to pursue my singing.

I have the support of my family and the friends I have made through music," she said.

When asked what advice she would give to current Mount Carmel School Knights, she said: "Dream big, never stop going after your bliss and when you make your mark on this world to make sure it is always for the betterment of all."

CPI release coincides with Tinian, Rota CPI recertification

The Department of Commerce and its Central Statistics Division announced Thursday last week the completion and release of the 1st and 2nd Quarterly Report 2013 Consumer Price Index. In this report, the all items index for Saipan increased 13.6 percent since the rebased in the 4th Quarter of 2008, also an increase of 16.5 percent on Tinian and 10.5 per-

cent on Rota since 1st Quarter 2010.

The Rota and Tinian Mayor's Office aided with the completion of the report with the support of their statisticians out of their Commerce Department, while undergoing a recertification on the CPI as well during their visit to Saipan.

Kent Atalig of Tinian and Vicenta San Nicolas of Rota,

both from their respective Commerce offices, successfully completed the workshop. Their accomplishment will be added to the sustainability and quality of the CNMI CPI program.

"The partnership is part of the collaborative efforts between the Secretary of Commerce and the respective mayors, to include cross-trainings

and maintaining or building capacity and resource to the Commerce departments of Rota and Tinian," said CSD director Alfonis Sound.

The complete report on the CPI 1st and 2nd quarter is available online at the Department of Commerce website: <http://commerce.gov.mp/divisions/central-statistics/> (Office of the Governor)



From left, Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar, Vicenta San Nicolas of Tinian, Kent Atalig of Rota, Justin Andrew, and Alfonis Sound.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Municipal council to jump-start village revitalization and cleanup

The 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Council will jump-start its Revitalization and Enhancement Clean Up under the Neighborhood Watch Program this weekend.

Council chair Ramon B. Camacho kicked off the campaign on Saturday, Nov. 16, with the cleanup of Susupe Village close to Susupe Lake area. He said the cleanup was from 2pm to 6pm.

If any other village community would like to join the Re-

vitalization and Enhancement Clean Up program they would have to contact the council's office to coordinate the activity.

Camacho said he wants to start an inner village-by-village cleanup campaign to revitalize Saipan.

The Neighborhood Watch Program Camacho is championing intends to build partnerships with the community through projects like village cleanups and the monitoring of locales against criminal activity. (Saipan Tribune)

Visa fraud scheme results in federal criminal charges

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the District of Guam and the Northern Mariana Island, announced last week the filing on Oct. 22, 2013, of federal criminal charges against Mariano K. Pangelinan, Rosabella P. Cruz, and Helen N. Aparente, stemming from their involvement with a corporation called Arch International.

The federal criminal indict-

ment alleges that the three individuals held Arch out as a recruiting agency that could help aliens obtain jobs and employment-based CW-1 permits for certain fees, but, after taking various fees from the aliens, did not find them jobs but instead submitted CW-1 petitions to federal immigration authorities in which they falsely stated that Arch itself employed the aliens.

The indictment charges conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the United States, visa fraud, and false statement. The conspiracy and false statement charges carry maximum potential sentences of five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The visa fraud charges carry a maximum potential sentence of 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Defendants Pangelinan and Cruz made their initial appearances before U.S. Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy on Oct. 25, 2013, and were arraigned before U.S. District Court Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Nov. 4, 2013. Trial is scheduled for Dec. 30, 2013, at 10am. Defendant Aparente is still at large.

The charges are merely ac-

cusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The investigation was conducted by Home-

land Security Investigations. The case is being prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton. (USAO)

CNMI, Guam mayors bridge the gap

By KRYSTAL PACO
GUAM NEWS

GUAM—We may be sister islands, but the miles of ocean between us continue to divide us. Hoping to bridge the gap, here's more from the recent association of Mariana Islands' Mayors, Vice Mayors, and Elected Municipal Council membership meeting.

"A Common Cause For A Common Good"—an appropriate theme for the 20th AMIM general assembly meeting bringing together grassroots leaders from Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian.

Rota mayor and AMIM president Melchor Mendiola said, "We build up a better

relationship and of course we're trying to help one another what our needs are and what their needs are something in common."

This year, island mayors and vice mayors are tackling accessibility. For years, visitors and villagers alike have struggled to travel between the islands.

"The accessibility of us considering that Guam to Rota is a 20-30 miles airtime and that we have to stop by the airport two to three hours prior to departure doesn't make sense. We're trying to provide convenience and of course to have a more accessible flight schedules, so we can improve and increase the tourism industry and vice versa from

the common wealth to Guam. Guam to the Commonwealth and the likes," he said.

For Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, it's not just accessibility, but also price and inconvenience that deter travel between the islands.

At \$300 for a plane ticket from Guam to the CNMI, Dela Cruz says more residents would rather book a trip to Manila for the same cost instead.

He said, "I think the first thing that we should do is be able to link our airports so people can freely move about 0310 it's too expensive to travel from Saipan, especially because I'm traveling from Tinian. I have to fly to Saipan and catch a flight to come to

Guam. There's no direct flight from Tinian to Guam."

But it's not just about encouraging travel between the islands as they're also working to relax livestock regulations.

He said, "One of the issues that I raised during this meeting was also the transportation of livestock. Guam is a major market for a lot of agriculture, produce, and livestock. We would like to be able to relax some of the regulations that are presently hampering the importation of these livestock and animals."

In addition to bridging the gap, Mayors Council of Guam executive director Angel Sablan said mayors awarded \$1,000 scholarships for students in Guam and the CNMI.



BANK OF GUAM CONTRIBUTES \$10,000

Bank of Guam recently presented a \$10,000 contribution to the Ayuda Foundation in support of the Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts. Photo shows, from left to right, Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer and board chair and Ana-Lourdes S. Cook, granddaughter of Lou Leon Guerrero, presenting the check to Carlotta Leon Guerrero of the Ayuda Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Search for cruise ship passenger suspended

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard suspended the search Friday for a female passenger reported overboard from the cruise ship *Grand Princess* approximately 750 miles northeast of Hilo.

Two Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane crews from Air Station Barber's Point searched for approximately 20 hours.

A Navy P-3 Orion airplane crew from Navy Patrol Squadron 4 based at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe and the commercial tug and barge *Moku Pahu* also assisted in search efforts.

More than 10,000 square miles were searched.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center were notified at approximately 1pm Wednesday by the crew of the *Grand Princess* that the 54-year-old was overboard.

"Suspending a search is never an easy decision to make," said Lt. Cmdr. Peter Zauner, command duty officer of the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center. "It's done with much deliberation and after a concerted effort to ensure that the Coast Guard has adequately searched all probable locations for survivors. We offer our thoughts and prayers to the family and loved ones." (USCG)

Coast Guard suspends search for missing surfer

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard suspended the search at sunset Friday for a missing surfer near Alligator Rock.

"It is with heavy hearts that we now suspend our active search efforts," said Capt. Shannon Gilreath, commanding officer for Coast Guard Sector Honolulu. "Our thoughts go out to the Passmore family and the tight-knit communities in both Hawaii and California where he was an important member."

The Coast Guard, Honolulu

Fire Department and Ocean Safety searched more than 2,330 square miles.

Coast Guard Cutter Galveston Island, a 45-foot Response Boat-Medium crew from Station Honolulu and an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter aircrew from Air Station Barbers Point searched the area.

Honolulu Fire Department, Ocean Safety and volunteers from the community also combed the area by land, air and sea. (USCG)



IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Cadets of the Manta Ray Battalion spent a month and a half collecting various canned foods. In the end, the battalion collected more than 200 canned goods and several sacks of rice. These donations were turned over to Karidat to help provide those in need during the Thanksgiving season. Joining several cadets in the picture are, top, from right to left, MRB's SAI CSM Richard S. Basa, SSHS principal Jonathan Cabrera, MRB's BNXC C/MAJ Joann Banales, MRB's BC C/LTC Donna Pascual, Karidat representatives, and MRB's Army Instructor SGM Joaquin Kiyoshi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Whispering Palms School to hold typhoon relief fundraiser

The Whispering Palms School Student Council and PTA will be holding a yard sale on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 8am to 11am to raise money to help the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The school is setting a goal of

\$2,500 that will be sent with the assistance of the local Red Cross Chapter. There will also be a bake sale with breakfast items.

"We are asking the community to come out and support our cause by shopping, getting some breakfast, or just com-

ing by to make a donation," the school said in a statement.

The school is also accepting any donated items to sell from Nov. 27 to 30.

Whispering Palms School is located on Navy Hill across from the baseball field. The

school has an international student body in grades 1-8, and is now in its 26th year of operation here on Saipan.

Contact Whispering Palms School principal Rob Epley for more information at 323-7451. (PR)

Food service specialists fuel Marines with food

By CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Marines participating in exercise Forager Fury II have a new means of raising morale as the expeditionary field kitchen is set up and ready to serve Marines in the field with hot meals throughout the remainder of the exercise.

Service members face many hardships when in the field and having hot food is a good way to raise morale.

"I enjoy serving food in the field because it boosts up morale for the Marines," said Sgt. Aurelie C. Laracuate, a food service specialist from Waterbury, CT., with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "I enjoy watching them come from a hard day's work of whatever their military occupational specialty might be and enjoy something that we made. That's the best part of it."

It takes the assistance of more than food specialists Marines to provide meals for the Marines.

"All of us have to bring everything we have together," said Lance Cpl. Clemente Jimenez, a food service specialist from Bronx, NY., with MWSS-171. "It is not just one person cooking, nor is it just the efforts of the cooks that go into providing food. Motor transportation Marines, engineers, electricians and other Marines help us keep the EFK running."

According to Jimenez, the time needed to cook the food will vary with each meal.

"It depends on what time chow is whether it is breakfast, lunch or dinner," said Jimenez. "Breakfast takes us about 45



Marines make preparations inside an expeditionary field kitchen to serve food to Marines waiting outside to receive their first meal that is not a meal ready to eat on Tinian's North Field, Nov. 9 during exercise Forager Fury II.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



Sgt. Aurelie C. Laracuate, from Waterbury, CT., puts cartons of milk into a container before serving a meal to Marines at Tinian's North Field Nov. 9 during exercise Forager Fury II. Using an expeditionary field kitchen, food service Marines can feed each service member participating in the exercise. Laracuate is a food service specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, currently on Tinian for exercise Forager Fury II.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



Lance Cpl. Clemente Jimenez, from Bronx, NY., left, and Jonathan L. Matos, from Bridgeport, CT. repair hoses that run from a container of water to an expeditionary field kitchen at Tinian's North Field, Nov. 8 during exercise Forager Fury II. An EFK is designed to feed between 500 and 700 Marines. The Marines are food service specialists with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marines I have with me are a good group and I trust they can overcome any obstacle to provide solid meals for other Marines in the field."

With approximately 200 Marines currently on Tinian, the EFK can provide for many more if needed.

"We can feed from 500-700 Marines," said Laracuate. "Right now, we are feeding about 200 give or take. If we had to feed more than 700, we could."

Cooking in a field environment presents a set of challenges to the food service Marines including proper cleaning and maintenance so the food is sanitary and safe for consumption.

"The most difficult part to cooking in the field, that we have faced here, is keeping everything clean," said Jimenez. "There is a lot of dirt and it is going to be dirty all the time. So, we clean as we go and adapt to any environment. We keep everything clean and sanitary so the Marines can have a healthy meal."

With FFII underway, and Marines working vigilantly to clear the runways of Tinian's North Field, setting up preparations for jet aircraft landings at Tinian's West Field, the food service specialists will not allow the Marines to go hungry.

In Loving Memory

†Maria Corazon Pineda SanNicolas

Born to life on June 13, 1987 and was called to her eternal rest on November 14, 2013

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Joseph Vincent Guiao SanNicolas
Son: Jaze Enzo Pineda SanNicolas
Parents: Ramon and Maria Consolacion Ocampo Pineda
Parents In-Law: †Pedro Camacho SanNicolas
 Rosario Guiao SanNicolas
Brother, Sister and In-Laws:
 Jeffrey O. Pineda and Rannie O. Pineda
 Frances Robin G. and Shyaralyn SanNicolas
 Peter John G. and Irish Ann SanNicolas
 Antonette G. SanNicolas

Daily Mass of intentions will be celebrated at the following:

Santa Remedios Church

Monday, November 18, 2013	6:00PM
Wednesday, November 20, 2013	6:00PM
Friday, November 22, 2013	6:00PM
Saturday, November 23, 2013	6:00PM

San Roque Church

Tuesday, November 19, 2013	6:00PM
Thursday, November 21, 2013	6:00PM
Sunday, November 24, 2013	9:30AM

Funeral Services will be announced at a later date.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family



Saipan Super Saver wants to help small biz

A three-month-old company wants to help mom-and-pop stores and small retail and service companies on island drum up more business through its a booklet full of coupons that it publishes once every two months.

Saipan Super Saver offers more than \$1,000 in saving

from companies that range from restaurants, to service outlets, to pharmacies, and cupcake shops.

Kayla Wood, who along with her husband Aaron publishes Saipan Super Saver, said the idea of a booklet full of coupons came from her hometown of Houston, Texas.

She said couponing is quite

popular in the U.S. and is probably one of the reasons "Extreme Couponing" on TLC is such a big hit among the country's TV viewers.

The mother of two said when she arrived on Saipan three years ago she was surprised that the idea of couponing hasn't taken off locally.

After letting the idea percolate in her head a few years, Wood said she finally went all in and started Saipan Super Saver this year, culminating with the

booklet's inaugural issue, which hit stores last Nov. 4.

Among the companies that are offering discounts and other promotions through coupons found at Saipan Super Saver are J's Restaurant, Wild Bill's, 360 Restaurant, Buttercups, Java Joe's, 3 Strands, Brabu Pharmacy, American Medical Center, Saipan Zoo, Marianas Country Club, The Athlete's Foot, and Girl Talk.

Aside from the big saving by using coupons from Saipan Su-

per Saver, Wood said the booklet also presents a potential fundraising opportunity for schools and organizations.

Wood said the booklet retails for \$2 and if interested, schools and organizations can tie up with her where she will give half of the sales for every booklet purchase.

In the future, Saipan Super Saver will also add a shoutout and birthday greeting component to its booklet.

During its inaugural issue,

Saipan Super Saver is also giving away a bush cutter courtesy of CarQuest.

Saipan Super Saver is sold for \$2 a booklet at the following outlets: CarQuest, The Coffee Room N-106, Jave Joe's, Naked Fish, Lollipops, Mobil gas stations, among others.

For more information on Saipan Super Saver, call Wood at 235-2116, email info@woodventures.com or find Saipan Super Saver on Facebook. *(Mark Rabago)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aaron and Kayla Wood pose with their two children and the Saipan Super Saver booklet.



CULTURAL CUISINE DAY

Northern Marianas College students and employees enjoyed the different cultural dishes served during Cultural Cuisine Day at the college. This event was part of International Education Week and College Month activities. Visit www.marianas.edu for the different events that are happening for College Month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB expresses appreciation to Q1 donors

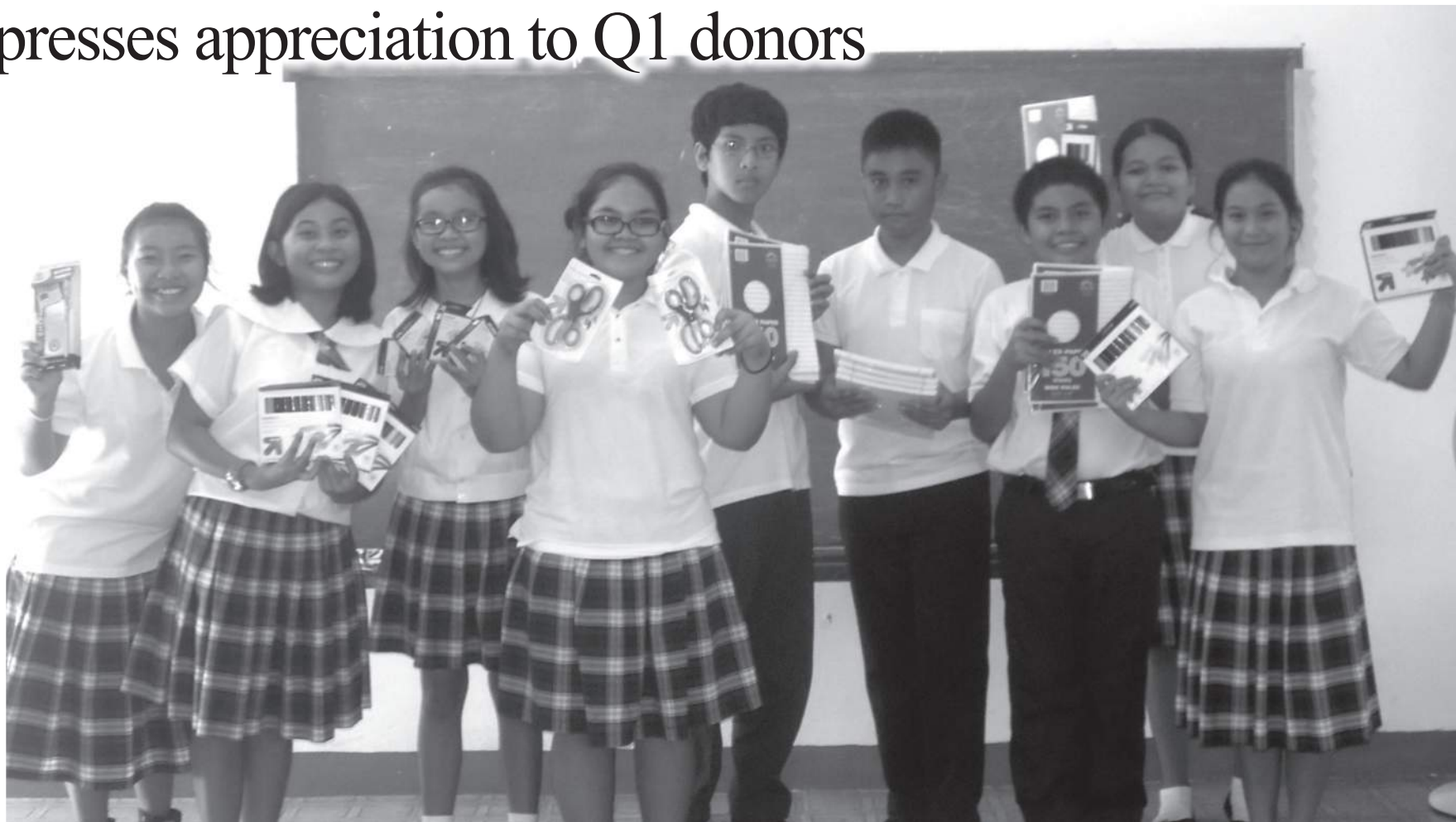
It can sometimes be difficult to find just the right words to express our appreciation to generous donors—donors that make a difference in school, church, or community.

At Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, donations coming in—whether it's monetary, books, school supplies, sports equipments, or through volunteering—are all welcomed with gratitude.

"We are truly grateful for the support of our donors," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "Their generosity has helped shape ESFDB into a 21st century Catholic institution that is committed to excellence in teaching and learning, and providing our students with a technology enriched with learning environment."

"We are incredibly fortunate to have donors in our community and abroad that stepped up to support education. By donating, donors are making a real difference in the lives of local children, not only today but in the future," said board president Edward Maratita Jr.

The administration, faculty and staff, and the board of directors would like to express their appreciation and gratitude



Students display the school supplies donated by 2414 Target from the U.S. mainland.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to the following businesses and people for their generous donations: Glenda C. Santos, Tita A. Hocog, Jesus V. (JM) and Reiko A. DL Guererro, Norman and

Juana Palma, Rep. Teresita Santos, Rota Councilman George Hocog, Jonelle and Ari Toskas, Independent Local Artist of Guam (Joyce SN. Perez, Ed Vil-

lanueva, Matthew Flores, Justo Quenga, Jess Castro, Joan Aguon, Jenevieve Aguon, Liz Camacho, Atrina Ernest, Lorenzo Barcinas, Candida Barcinas, Mary

Quichocho, Phyl Aguon, Helen Aguon, Michael Camacho), Andrew Wood, Erica Shively, Delta Air Lines-Saipan, 2414 Target, Isla Trading Company, RMC,

Numbers International, Inc., Rota's Bakery, Kin & Rit Enterprises, and the Pacific Regional Training Institute. *(Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja)*

Kia'aina touts island roots at hearing

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Guam-born Hawaiian Esther Kia'aina, tapped by President Obama to be the next Assistant Secretary of Interior for Insular Affairs, touted her strong island roots and government experience at her Senate confirmation hearing.

Kia'aina, now a Hawaii Public Lands official, was introduced at her Senate Energy Committee hearing by Hawaii senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz but it was her Guam roots that Kia'aina focused on.

Kia'aina said, "While my parents are originally from Hawaii, I was born at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Guam, as my father worked for the U.S.

Navy in a civilian capacity. ... My initial years were spent in the village of Asan, where I lived right across from Asan Beach, which was the location where the 3rd Marine Division landed, during the liberation of Guam from enemy forces, during World War II."

Kia'aina graduated from San Vicente Elementary and Junior High School.

The next expected U.S. Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs called her formative years in Guam "some of the best years of my life."

Kia'aina said, "I still remember with fondness and gratitude the guidance and support of the School of Sisters

of Notre Dame, who helped to shape my views of the world. These nuns were Sister Mary Bernard, Sister Mary Joseph, Sister Mary Wan, Sister Fidelis and Sister Rozine. *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, sisters, for all that you have done for me."

Kia'aina rose from humble roots to a nearly 20-year career in Washington working for former senator Daniel Akaka and Rep. Ed Case of Hawaii and Guam Delegate Robert Underwood.

She worked on Guam lands, war claims, compact impact, higher education and brown tree snake bills.

Kia'aina said, "I believe I have a good understanding of

the continuing need to strengthen bilateral federal relationships with each jurisdiction, promote economic development, increase government efficiency and transparency, foster sound natural resources management practices, advance alternative energy goals, and improve quality of life issues."

Kia'aina promised if confirmed to work with local, congressional, and federal officials on these, plus climate change, immigration and renewal of the Palau compact.

Senate Energy could vote on Kia'aina in the next few weeks, with possible full Senate action before the full body recesses for the holidays next month.

Bordallo meets with Esther Kia'aina

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) met last week with Esther Kia'aina prior to her confirmation hearing to be the next Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas at the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

Kia'aina was nominated by President Obama on Sept. 11, 2013, to succeed former Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a confirmation hearing on Kai'aina's nomination on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013.

"I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Esther prior to her confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee," said Bordallo. "Esther has strong roots in Guam and she is well aware of the many issues facing our island and the other insular areas. I am confident that as the head of the Office of Insular Affairs, she will continue to support federal policies beneficial to the territories. I hope that the Senate will act swiftly on her nomination and confirm her as the next Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. (PR)



Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) meets with Esther Kai'aina prior to her confirmation hearing to be the next Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas at the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

UOG ROTC holds field training exercise

» Training prepares cadets for LDAC at Fort Knox, Kentucky

The University of Guam Triton Warrior Battalion Senior Army Reserve Officers Training Corp conducted Field Training Exercise on Nov. 14-17, 2013, at the Guam Army Reserves Center in Barrigada. The FTX reinforced skills acquired by the UOG ROTC cadets through labs and classes during the course of the fall 2013 semester.

"This [was] a great opportunity for all of our cadets to showcase what they have learned this semester and in previous years.

Getting out of the classroom and getting our boots dirty is fantastic!" said University of Guam Senior Army ROTC Professor of Military Science, LTC Jay A. Blakley.

Organized and coordinated by UOG ROTC seniors, the FTX included a number of activities for cadets to evaluate their knowledge and proficiency in areas such as First Aid, Night Land Navigation, Squad Tactics, the Field Leaders Reaction Course, Troop Leading Proce-

dures, Hand Grenade Assault Course, and overall field craft.

The FTX is primarily designed to prepare UOG ROTC junior cadets for the Leadership Development Assessment Course this summer at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The FTX simulates what a cadet can expect from LDAC and provides an opportunity to evaluate a cadet's potential to become an officer in the U.S. Army.

Successfully completing LDAC is a prerequisite to be-

coming an Army officer through the ROTC program. Third-year cadets are evaluated through a combination of LDAC performance, academic grades, and other military training opportunities such as Cadet Training Leadership Course, Airborne, and Air Assault. These are used as criteria in the annual assessment and placement of second lieutenants into the basic officer branches of the Army.

For more information about the UOG Army ROTC program, contact recruiting officer John Howerton at 777-7682 or visit online at www.uog.edu/armyrotc. (UOG)

USDA awards Catholic Social Services \$50K grant

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced Friday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Service has awarded \$50,000 to the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Agaña, which provides services locally as

Catholic Social Services.

Rural Development funds will be used to repair and rehabilitate an eight unit apartment complex for housing of very low income elderly, individuals with disabilities and families.

"I commend Catholic Social

Services for their efforts in obtaining this grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture," said Bordallo. "These funds will go toward repairing and restoring a housing complex that shelter for our island's elderly and individuals with disabilities. I appreciate the

efforts of Catholic Social Services and other non-profits on Guam in looking after our most underserved in the community. I look forward to the use of these funds by Catholic Social Services in maintaining this facility for years to come." (PR)

Turkey of an ex-boyfriend could ruin Thanksgiving dinner

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law tends to embrace every pitiful creature she comes into contact with. This Thanksgiving she has invited my ex-boyfriend and his wife to her home to share in the festivities. My ex was abusive to me most of the time, and we did not end on good terms. The woman he cheated on me with is now his wife.

My ex was sneaky and manipulative, and I believe his only reason for wanting to be there is to check up on me and my husband. I have explained this to my husband and his mother, and told them I don't feel comfortable with the situation. They both told me I am "overreacting" and that he was a part of my past and I have since moved on.

I feel the family I love has betrayed me. The idea of my ex being involved in what should be a comfortable family day has me afraid and uneasy. AM I overreacting? Or is my husband's mother being unreasonable?

DREADING THANKSGIVING

DEAR DREADING THANKSGIVING: I do not think you are overreacting. It was insensitive of your mother-in-law to invite your abusive ex and his wife to the gathering without first checking with you. While you may have moved on, I can see why this would not be something you would look forward to. Frankly, it's surprising that your mother-in-law would even know your ex—let alone invite him to her home.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been living on my own for three years. I recently moved back to my hometown and share a great apartment with my best friend from childhood.

My mother has had a serious alcohol problem for as long as I can remember. She will be moving back to the area next month for a new job. Dad couldn't get a job transfer, so he'll have to stay at their current house, which is five hours away.

I love Mom, but I'm very worried because I will be her closest family member location-wise. Her drinking has grown progressively worse over the last few years and has been the cause of three major surgeries. If something happens while she's living on her own, I don't know what I'll do.

Talking to my family is useless. It gets brushed aside because they don't want to deal with the pain after all these years. Do you have any suggestions to make this transition easier?

HEAVY-HEARTED DAUGHTER IN VIRGINIA

DEAR HEAVY-HEARTED: For the sake of your sanity, you must not assume responsibility for your mother's drinking problem. Before she arrives, it would be helpful for you to attend some Al-Anon meetings or visit a chapter of Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization. They can help you to maintain your emotional equilibrium as well as share experiences that will help you to cope with her without being overwhelmed.

Al-Anon should be listed in your phone directory because it is everywhere, or you can visit www.Al-AnonFamily-Groups.org. The website for Adult Children of Alcoholics is www.adultchildren.org.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

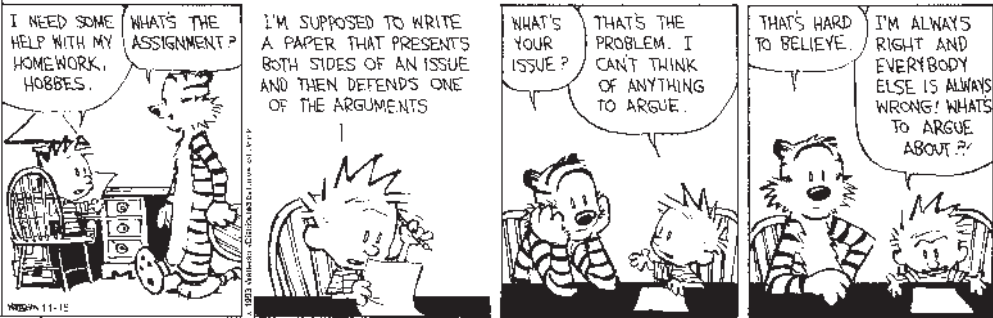
To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



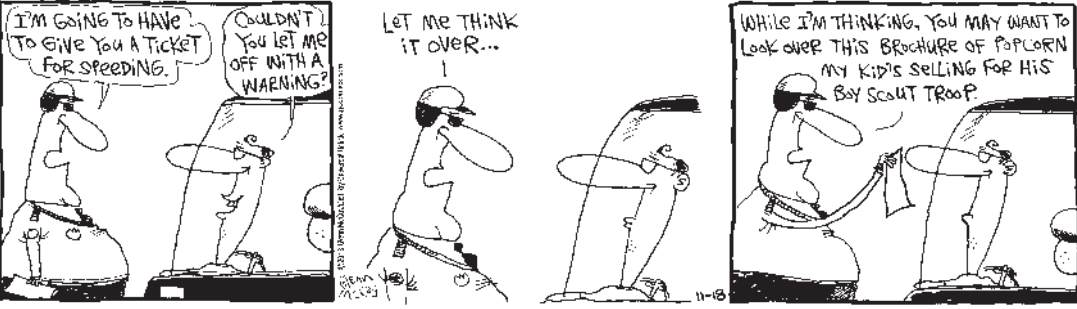
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Capital of Peru

5 Work measure

8 Resign

12 First

14 Loosen

15 Roy's Trigger, for one

16 "That suits me to —"

17 "Awe-some!"

18 Less-traveled pathway

20 Watt's power

23 Pair's air

24 — and crafts

25 Imposing Italian building

28 Cushion insert

29 Parking lot device

30 Historic time

32 Mouths' roofs

34 Catches

DOWN

1 Cut off

2 Savings plan

3 Wire acronym

4 Old market-places

5 Oklaho-ma

6 Scooted

7 Droplets of liquid

8 Sand ingredient

9 "Do — others ..."

10 Thought

11 Hammered on an angle

13 Mosque bigwig

19 365 days

20 Potential syrup

21 Stumble

22 Sicilian

23 Old hat

25 Collar style

26 Fervor

27 Spheres

29 Spiked club

31 Smile center

33 Gecko or iguana

34 "Apocalypse Now" smell

36 United nations

37 Money of Thailand

38 Addict

39 Nil

40 Partner

43 Carte lead-in

44 Writer

45 Pitch

46 Raw rock

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 11-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Allyson Felix, 28; Denny Hamlin, 33; Chloe Sevigny, 39; Owen Wilson, 45.

Happy Birthday: You'll question things you've done in the past as you look for answers that will help you move forward. Learn all you can about unique ways to lower stress and to enjoy life more. Say no to those who limit you and venture toward a way of life that is more conducive to obtaining your dreams, hopes and wishes. Your numbers are 6, 11, 15, 26, 35, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Observation will be a telltale sign of what's to come when dealing with both personal and professional relationships. Let your keen perception guide you and help you make choices based on your findings. Don't let a love affair lead you astray. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Strive for perfection. Show your capabilities and don't be afraid to brag a little. Your charm will attract attention and enhance your love life. Put aside time for a little romance in the evening to ease your stress. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your emotions will dictate the way you react to situations that arise between you and your peers. Don't make promises you cannot keep. Bragging will leave you in an awkward position. You are better to understate than to exaggerate. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you make a professional move, do it for the right reason. An impulsive move will not end well. Ask questions that will give you insight

to what's unfolding around you. Prosperity will be based on your values and attributes. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Personal problems can be expected if you have taken on too much. Don't bend to the demands being put on you at home. Looking at a situation from a different perspective will help you make a decision that can lead to positive alternatives. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Call in favors and re-address unfinished business. You can finally get answers and make positive plans. Communication will be your ticket to success, and you'll get all the help you need to accomplish your goals. Don't let emotional misperceptions interfere. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Avoid overspending and consider ways to budget better. Avoid emotional and impulsive purchases. Concentrate on how you can best use your skills and intelligence to bring in more cash. Charm can help you secure a better position. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Lighten up and spend the day doing things that make you happy and bring you additional satisfaction and the promise of an interesting encounter. Romance will put an interesting spin on a relationship that needs a boost. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will find it necessary to figure out a way to secure your position. Holding on to what you have will take patience and understanding on your part. Showing emotion or anger will work against you. Stick close to home. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't wait to see what someone else is going to do. Be a leader, not a follower. Your forthright, aggressive approach to work and getting ahead will pay off and bring you added respect. An increase in revenue looks positive. Plan to celebrate. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have to pay close attention to what others say or do. Protect your interests and hang out where you feel safe and secure. Make a last-minute change if you don't feel comfortable with the way a situation is developing. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Set up meetings, attend functions that are conducive to gathering information and develop a plan that will further your interests. Personal and financial matters can be dealt with favorably. Negotiate and you will get what you want. ★★

Birthday Baby: You meet challenges head-on. You are charismatic, mysterious and unique.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](http://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	1	2	5	3	4	9	7
4	2	5	8	9	7	6	1	3
9	7	3	1	4	6	2	5	8
1	8	4	7	6	5	9	3	2
2	3	6	4	1	9	8	7	5
5	9	7	3	2	8	1	4	6
6	1	2	5	7	4	3	8	9
3	5	9	6	8	1	7	2	4
7	4	8	9	3	2	5	6	1

Difficulty Level ★ 11/18

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BUTTERSCUTCH Solution: 7 letters

T E R O C S S P O R D S A L T
F F P H A U M P E A E E O D F
O R D C K A U L C L S I Y D L
S U Y I E R C S H L S R O E A
W I K R Y A C T I I E T G L V
E T C S E O O G P N R S U I O
E C I R N O O E O A T A R C R
T A T E M L D I H V O P T I E
A R S S D A T I B C H O P O T
L T L E M C U R D R A H L U T
O X N E E S S E N C E N E S U
C E M F U D G E C L N A A U B
O O N R O C P O P U I G D G A
H O L L E J G N I T A O C A R
C A N D Y C A N E V O S B R S

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Bars, Boil, Bread, Butter, Cake, Candy Cane, Chip, Chocolate, Chop, Coating, Confectionery, Cream, Curd, Delicious, Dessert, Drops, Essence, Extract, Flavor, Fruit, Fudge, Ganache, Golden, Hard, Homemade, Hot, Jail-O, Melt, Oven, Pastries, Plead, Popcorn, Rich, Salt, Sauce, Scones, Score, Smooth, Soda, Soft, Sticky, Sugar, Sweet, Syrup, Treacle, Vanilla, Yogurt

Last Friday's Answer: Brackish Ponds

Purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 36, 37 or 38 for the holidays by calling 1-800-842-0490. Order online at wonderword.universalucl.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- **Biomedical Tech./Electrical, Maintenance Specialist for Health Facility:** The position requires working in the acute health care environment to maintain and repair wide variety of systems including but not limited to steam plant, oxygen enrichment, reverse osmosis, back-up emergency electrical power, electrical switch gear, medical vacuum, medical compressed air, air condition and ventilation, life safety systems and general biomedical/dental equipments.
- **Laborer, Landscaping and Groundskeeping:** Majority (80%) of time is spent maintaining property around company office, which is comprised of 4000 sq.mt (groundskeeping). Also does basic plumbing and repairs around office, and daily office cleaning to include work space located at clients and warehouse. Other (20%) is spent on general duties such as delivery/pickup of supplies and performs duties as mail runner.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,	) NO. 07-257
-v-)
JEREMY M. MENDIOLA and AGNES ANN)
TEREYAMA MENDIOLA,)
Defendants.)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 026 K 48, situated in lower Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 816 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 026 K 03 dated December 15, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-3822, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of October, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
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Salary \$5.55 p/h. High School graduate. Minimum 5 years experience. Knowledge in Chinese and Japanese languages a plus.
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LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater. **\$350-\$450/month**

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- FREE WiFi
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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,	) NO. 06-0596
-v-)
JULIANA R. OLKERIIL and JUNIOR N. OLKERIIL,)
Defendants.)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 15, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 004 B 44, situated in Tanapag, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,164 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 004 B 02 dated December 26, 1991, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-108, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of October, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MD. JAHANGIR ALAM, Petitioner,	) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0488
vs.)
FINORINA BOKUKU, Respondent.	) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504131 Chalan Kanoa Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 31st day of October, 2013

/s/Clerk of Court

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Sex: **Female**

Passport Information:
People's Republic of China E11602029

Birth Place: **Gui Zhou, China**
Date of Issue: **March 11, 2013**
Date of Expiry: **March 10, 2023**

If found Pls. Call 287-8118 or 783-0870

Elsie Songao Zaman
P.O. Box 502193
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 256-0310

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the	) FCD CN
Petition for the	) CIVIL ACTION
Change of Name of:	) NO. 13-0469
Elsie Songao Zaman)
Petitioner,	) NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 5, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 14th day of November, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Rose, Bulls end Pacers' perfection with 110-94 win

CHICAGO (AP)—Derrick Rose came to work unsure if he'd be able to play.

He left with his confidence intact and his team's future looking very bright.

Luol Deng scored 23 points, Rose added 20 and the Chicago Bulls knocked off the NBA's last unbeaten team with a 110-94 win over the Indiana Pacers on Saturday night.

Taj Gibson had 15 points and eight rebounds for Chicago (5-3), which won its fourth straight game behind 11-of-19 shooting from 3-point range.

"We got off to a good start," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said. "(The Pacers) missed some shots that they usually make. Overall, I thought it was a good win. We played very unselfishly."

Indiana (9-1) was the NBA's first 9-0 team since the 2002-'03 Dallas Mavericks, who started 14-0. The nine wins to start a season matched a franchise record.

Nursing a sore right hamstring, Rose was effective in his 30 minutes on the court. He weaved around and penetrated the league's best defense, which hadn't allowed more than 91 points to any opponent this year.

Rose was injured Monday against Cleveland, and did not play in Chicago's 96-80 win Friday at Toronto.

"I was just being smart about the situation," he said about not playing Friday. "This is my first time having a hamstring injury. I don't know how it would go if I had played last night. I don't think I'd be able to play tonight."

The 25-year-old former MVP shook off the rust after a pair of early off-balance misses. He sank a floater in the lane 3 minutes in, followed by a 3-pointer 30 seconds later to ignite a 12-2 first-quarter run for Chicago.

"They were giving me shots," Rose said. "I've got to take those shots. I saw some go in, so I kept shooting."

Rose coozed up at the 3-point arc in the second quarter, knocking down all three attempts as the Bulls took a 25-point advantage into the half. He finished 6 for 11 from beyond the arc.

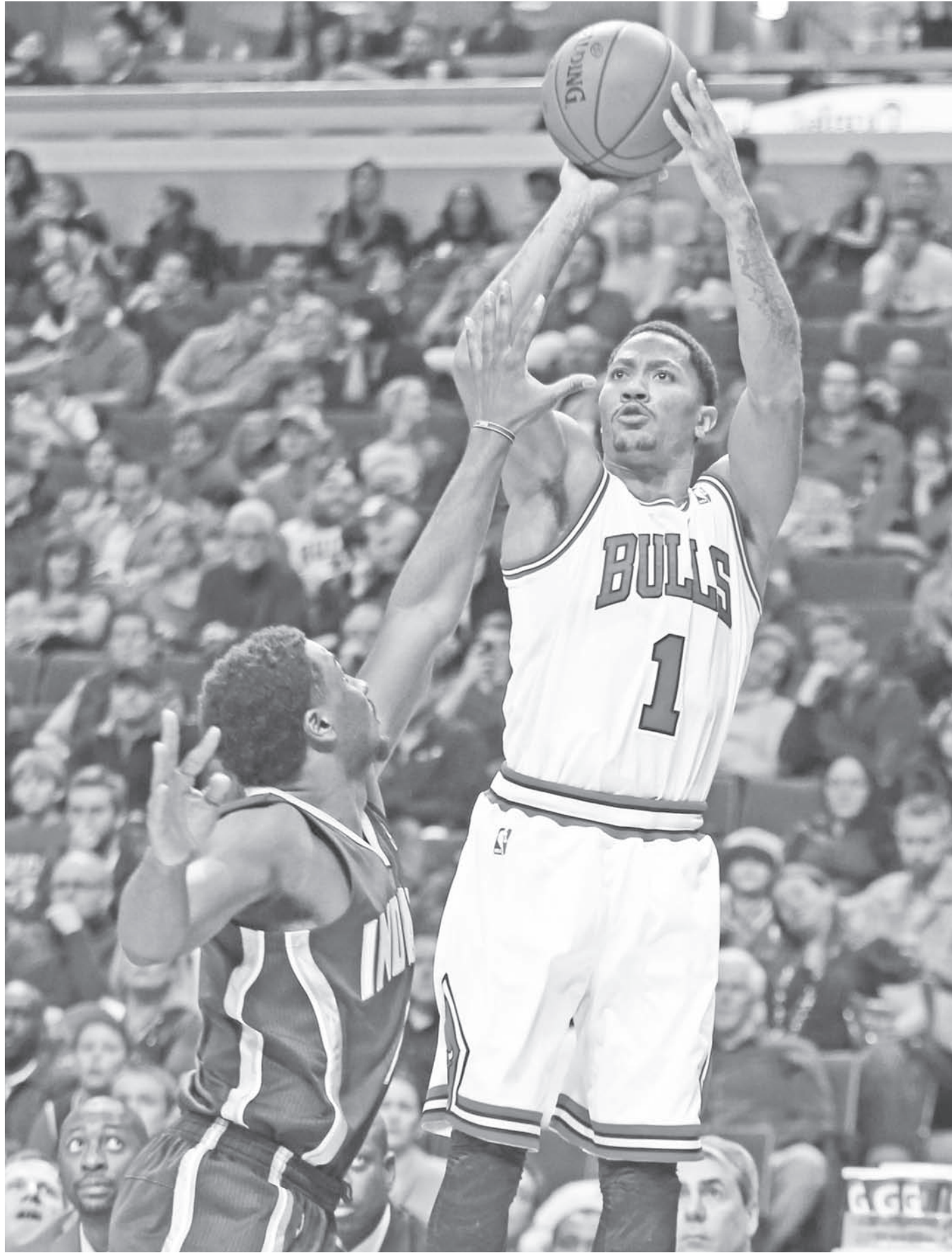
"Most of Rose's 3s were pretty well contested considering his speed," Pacers coach Frank Vogel contended. "You can't just jam him. You have to give up something. You have to give them credit."

Kirk Hinrich came off the bench to contribute 13 points, eight assists and four rebounds for the Bulls, who avenged a 97-80 loss at Indiana on Nov. 6.

The Pacers lost despite having all five starters—and two reserves—score in double-digits.

Roy Hibbert led Indiana with 14 points a day after posting season-highs with 24 points and eight blocks.

Chicago held Paul George to 12 points. He entered the game seventh in the NBA with 24.6 points per game. George and



Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose (1) shoots over Indiana Pacers forward Solomon Hill during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago, Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013.

Lance Stephenson combined to miss all seven of their 3-point attempts, and the team made just 25 percent.

"I understand I'm going to have nights like this when shots aren't falling," George said. "I just don't want to have many."

The Pacers were coming off their most lopsided win of the season, a 104-77 drubbing of Milwaukee.

Carlos Boozer and Chris Copeland were ejected with 21 seconds left when a double-technical was called for pushing and shoving.

Heat 97, Bobcats 81

In Charlotte, N.C., LeBron James scored 30 points to help Miami beat Charlotte for the 13th straight time.

With Mario Chalmers sus-

pending, Chris Bosh limited due to foul trouble, Ray Allen out with the flu and Dwyane Wade a non-factor, James came up big for the Heat. The four-time MVP was 13 of 18 from the field and had seven assists in his eighth 20-point game this season.

Michael Beasley added 15 points for the Heat, winners of six of their last seven overall.

Kemba Walker had 22 points to lead the Bobcats, who shot 35 percent from the field. Jeffery Taylor scored 14 points and has now finished in double digits in six of his last seven games.

Clippers 110, Nets 103

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 30 points and 12 rebounds,

J.J. Redick added 26 points and Los Angeles rallied to beat short-handed Brooklyn to improve to 5-0 at home.

DeAndre Jordan had 16 rebounds, Chris Paul added 12 points and 13 assists, and Jamal Crawford had seven of his 13 points in the fourth for the Clippers, who kept the Nets winless against them in Los Angeles since Nov. 15, 2010.

The Nets played without injured starters Kevin Garnett, Brook Lopez, Paul Pierce and Deron Williams, leaving Joe Johnson as the only regular in the lineup.

Andray Blatche and Mason Plumlee scored 19 points each, and Alan Anderson had 15 for the Nets, who fell to 1-5 on the road under rookie coach Jason Kidd.

Rockets 122, Nuggets 111

In Houston, Dwight Howard scored 18 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, including 13 of 19 free throws in a 2½-minute stretch, to lead Houston past Denver.

Chandler Parsons added 20 points and James Harden had 17 for the Rockets, who never trailed and led by as many as 23.

The Nuggets tried to get back in it with about 5½ minutes left by using the "Hack-a-Howard" defense, intentionally fouling the center every time Houston had the ball. The plan backfired and Howard, who entered the game shooting 49 percent from the line, finished 17 of 24 on free throws.

Ty Lawson had 28 points and

a career-high 17 assists to lead Denver.

Mavericks 108, Magic 100

In Orlando, Fla., Monta Ellis had 19 points and eight assists to help Dallas win at Orlando for the eighth straight time.

Dirk Nowitzki and DeJuan Blair added 18 apiece for the Mavericks.

Arron Afflalo led the Magic with 25 points and four assists. Nikola Vucevic had 16 points and eight rebounds and Jameer Nelson added 15.

Orlando trimmed a 15-point first-half deficit to 91-87 after Vucevic's layup with 6:58 left in the game.

The Magic had chances to get closer, but Vucevic missed another layup attempt, rookie guard Victor Oladipo committed back-to-back turnovers and Afflalo missed a jumper.

Shawn Marion ended Dallas' drought with a 3-pointer from the corner, the Mavs first points in nearly four minutes. A 3 from Nowitzki stretched the lead to 100-91 with 3:10 left and the Magic never got closer.

Warriors 102, Jazz 88

In Oakland, Calif., Klay Thompson scored 25 points, Andre Iguodala had 16 points and six rebounds, and Golden State built a big lead before holding off Utah for its third straight victory.

Stephen Curry added 15 points and 11 assists and Andrew Bogut had 12 points and 11 rebounds to help the Warriors go ahead by 19 points late in the second quarter. The Jazz came back within seven in the third quarter before Golden State pulled away.

Backup center Jermaine O'Neal left the game early in the fourth quarter with an apparent right leg injury. He was helped off the floor and did not return.

Derrick Favors finished with 17 points and seven rebounds, and Gordon Hayward and Marvin Williams each scored 14 for the Jazz, who fell to an NBA-worst 1-10.

Hawks 110, Knicks 90

In New York, Jeff Teague scored 16 points to lead eight players in double figures, and Atlanta sent New York to a fifth straight home loss.

Paul Millsap, back in the starting lineup, had 14 points and 13 rebounds as the Hawks shot 56 percent and won for the fourth time in five games. They avenged the loss during that span, a 95-91 Knicks victory in Atlanta on Wednesday.

This was at Madison Square Garden, where New York hasn't won since beating Milwaukee on Oct. 30 in its season opener, and where the fans are getting restless.

Carmelo Anthony had 23 points and 12 rebounds for New York. Andrea Bargnani added 16 points and nine boards.

Cabrera repeats as AL MVP; McCutchen wins NL award



NEW YORK (AP)—All those who marvel at Miguel Cabrera can only wonder what he might've done this year if completely healthy.

Even so, Cabrera was a huge hit in Motown.

Despite being hobbled by all sorts of ailments, the Detroit Tigers slugger won his second straight American League Most Valuable Player award Thursday, once again beating Angels outfielder Mike Trout by a comfortable margin.

A season after winning baseball's first Triple Crown in 45 years, Cabrera came back to lead the majors in hitting at .348 and finish second with 44 home runs and 137 RBIs.

"I think this year was tougher because of the injuries," he said on a conference call from the Miami area.

"It was the last two months. It was tough to play through it," he said.

The eight-time All-Star missed several games after the break because of a bad back, a sore left hip flexor, a strained lower abdomen, shin trouble and a groin tear. He recently had surgery to fix the tear and said he'll be ready for spring training.

Still, Cabrera got 23 of 30 first-place votes from members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He became the first player to win consecutive AL MVPs since Frank Thomas for the Chicago White Sox in 1993 and 1994.

Pirates center fielder Andrew McCutchen took the NL MVP by a surprisingly wide margin after leading a baseball revival in Pittsburgh.

McCutchen drew 28 of the 30 first-place votes to finish far ahead of Arizona first baseman Paul Goldschmidt and St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina.

"I'm floating right now," McCutchen said in Pittsburgh. "But I definitely didn't expect it to be a landslide with those other guys—Goldschmidt and Molina. They were great candidates and I didn't know what to expect."

McCutchen ranked among the NL leaders by hitting .317 with 21 home runs and 84 RBIs. He also scored 97 runs, stole 27 bases and had a .404 on-base percentage.

The 27-year-old with the long, flowing dreadlocks helped the Pirates stop a record streak of 20 losing seasons and make the playoffs for the first time since 1992.

Cabrera finished with 385 points, while Trout got five first-place votes and 282 points. The difference was 81 points last season, when Trout was AL Rookie of the Year.

Baltimore first baseman Chris Davis, who led the majors with 53 homers and 138 RBIs, was third.

"I think all three guys deserve this trophy," Cabrera said.

Davis and Oakland third baseman Josh Donaldson each received a first-place vote.

Cabrera took his third AL batting title in a row. He also drew a \$1 million bonus for winning a second MVP during his current contract with the Tigers.

No AL player has won three straight MVPs. Albert Pujols was the last repeat NL MVP winner in 2008 and 2009; Barry Bonds took four straight from 2001-04.

The Tigers have virtually owned the major postseason awards during a three-year run of success. Justin Verlander was the MVP and Cy Young winner in 2011, Cabrera took the MVP last season and Detroit ace Max Scherzer won this year's Cy Young Award on Wednesday.

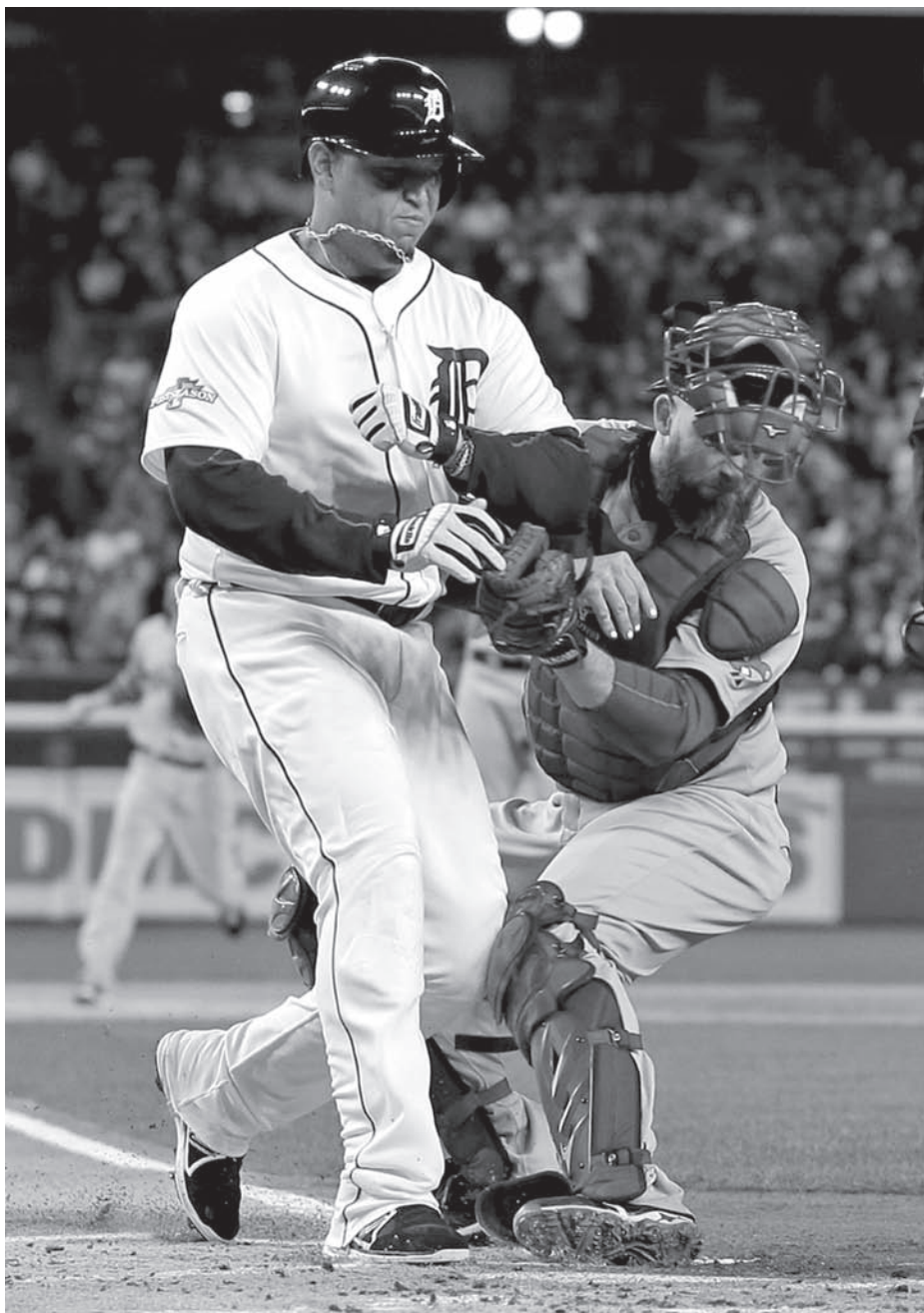
"I'm on the right team," Cabrera said.

The 30-year-old third baseman from Venezuela also captured the AL MVP last year when he hit .330 with 44 homers and 139 RBIs. Cabrera topped Trout 22-6 in first-place votes in that balloting.

Trout hit .323 with 27 homers and 97 RBIs this year, stole 33 bases and led the AL in runs and walks.

Cabrera clearly was baseball's most dominant hitter for most of the season as the Tigers won their third straight AL Central crown.

Voting for the BBWAA awards was done before the playoffs. Cabrera hit .262 with two homers and seven RBIs in 11 postseason games, and made a



Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera is tagged out at home by Boston Red Sox's David Ross in the first inning during Game 5 of the American League baseball championship series Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013, in Detroit.

couple of key outs in Detroit's six-game loss to Boston in the AL championship series.

Cabrera was in contention for a second straight Triple Crown for much of the year, and was hitting .359 with 43 homers and 130 RBIs through Aug. 26. But he managed only two extra-base

hits in his next 25 games through the end of the regular season.

Cabrera said he didn't think rest would have helped heal his injuries near the end.

Instead, he took a different approach: "OK, let's play through it and see what happens," he said.

Cabrera still became the first right-handed hitter to win three straight batting titles in either league since Rogers Hornsby in 1920-25.

Cabrera also kept amazing his teammates with his prowess at the plate.

In mid-August, he homered in all three games of a series at Yankee Stadium, twice connecting off career saves leader Mariano Rivera.

His shot in the opener was the most impressive, even though Detroit eventually lost. After fouling two balls off his left shin, Cabrera was having trouble standing in the batter's box when he tagged Rivera for a tying, two-run drive with two outs in the ninth inning.

Cabrera had bedeviled the Yankees before. As a 20-year-old rookie, he helped the Marlins beat New York in the 2003 World Series.

McCutchen, third in MVP balloting last season, got 409 points. Goldschmidt finished second with 242, while Molina received the other two first-place votes and came in third.

McCutchen's win came two days after Pirates manager Clint Hurdle was picked as the NL Manager of the Year. McCutchen was the first Pittsburgh player to win the MVP since Bonds in 1992.

The Pirates went 94-68 this year, a season after going 79-83. Along the way, McCutchen became the face of the franchise and heard loud "MVP!" chants when he would step to the plate at PNC Park this summer.

"I'd lie to you if I said it didn't enter my mind ever," he said. "It's awesome to hear something like that."

Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati in the NL wild-card game, then lost to St. Louis in a division series that went the full five games.

Boston wound up beating St. Louis in the World Series. No one on the Red Sox or Cardinals won any of the major BBWAA awards.

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

NFL to discuss expanding rules that protect QBs



Thanks to a broken collarbone on a run-of-the-mill sack, the Green Bay Packers are without Aaron Rodgers. Their rivals in the NFC North, the Chicago Bears, are without Jay Cutler thanks to a bum leg, which also wasn't the result of some sort of illegal hit.

Game after game, NFL quarterbacks get sacked, get hurt—and miss starts. Of the 15 games on this week's schedule, nine—60 percent—feature at least one team that has been forced to change its quarterback because of injury this season.

One of the two teams with a bye, St. Louis, lost its No. 1 guy, 2010 top overall draft pick Sam Bradford, for the season. Bradford, who tore a ligament in his left knee last month, is one of nine quarterbacks on injured reserve in 2013, the second most through

10 weeks in any of the past 15 seasons, according to STATS.

Amid those regular reminders of the dangers facing players at the sport's marquee position, the league's competition committee will take a look this offseason at whether to expand rules that protect the QB, NFL Vice President of Officiating Dean Blandino said Thursday.

"Should he always get protection from low hits or head hits, regardless of the posture he's presenting?" Blandino said in a telephone interview. "Part of the conversation will be: Should that protection be expanded to all times when the quarterback has the ball in the pocket?"

The committee will review position-by-position injury data and go over video from games, a regular process between seasons.

"Currently the quarterback is as protected now as he's ever been," Blandino said, "but I

think that's been the case for eight or nine years."

A year ago, only one QB had gone on IR by this point in the season. Indeed, 2012 was about as healthy as it gets for quarterbacks: 20 of 32 NFL teams started the same one in every game, the highest percentage for a full, non-strike season since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970. With nearly half of this season still to play, the number of teams able to rely on one starter at that key spot already is down to 20.

"If you don't have someone who can be productive at that position, you're not going to win many games. You need to keep your quarterback healthy, because on most teams, there's a huge drop-off from the starter to the backup. It's a watered-down position, because there's not a lot of great guys after the top 15 or so," Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon said. "When you get a good guy, you

want to keep him healthy."

Moon sees quite a difference in the way the position is safeguarded nowadays, compared with when he was in the NFL from 1984-2000.

"No question, I wish we were protected better. ... It's a lot safer, because some of the hits we took back in the day - they could still drive us into the turf when they hit us. Those really were painful. Didn't always cause an injury, but made you a little more antsy about taking hits. The guys these days don't really have to put up with it," Moon said. "I don't think there's much more you can do. It's as good as it's going to get, unless you put flags on them."

He pointed to today's spread offenses, with empty backfields and fewer players hanging back to help in pass protection, as a major reason games are averaging 2.65 sacks, a half-sack more per game than

in 2010, for example. That's on pace for the highest rate since the 2.67 in 1986.

It probably is not a coincidence that the seven teams with sole possession of first place in their division entering Thursday started the same guy behind center every week: New England (Tom Brady), Indianapolis (Andrew Luck), Cincinnati (Andy Dalton), Kansas City (Alex Smith), New Orleans (Drew Brees), Detroit (Matthew Stafford) and Seattle (Russell Wilson). So has Denver (Peyton Manning), which at 8-1 has the league's second-best record but is in second place in the AFC West behind unbeaten Kansas City entering their showdown Sunday night.

Already using three QBs are Buffalo, Cleveland and Green Bay, which put Rodgers' backup, Seneca Wallace, on IR, after he oh-so-briefly took over the job. The Packers now have

Scott Tolzien, until recently a practice squad member, calling signals against the Giants on Sunday.

The Broncos got a scare last weekend, when Manning limped around after a low hit late in a victory against San Diego. After he skipped practice Wednesday while getting treatment on his sore right ankle, Manning was asked about the slew of QB health issues around the league.

"I don't like talking about it. I don't know what the trends are at other places, but I never like to see a quarterback get injured, I will say that," said the four-time NFL MVP, who was at practice Thursday. "Quarterbacks are a unique fraternity. We kind of pull for one another. Maybe not when you're playing against them that day. Cutler's been injured. I know Rodgers was out. As a quarterback, you don't like to see those guys get injured. I hope they'll be back out there as soon as they can."

So, of course, do their teams.

Benavente tops MGA November Ace

Ron Benavente topped the Marianas Golf Association's November Ace of the Month held last Nov. 3 at the Marianas Country Club. He finished with a 73 net after



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Golf Association's November Ace of the Month Ron Benavente is flanked by Harry Nakamura, right, and Joey Dela Cruz after the tournament last Nov. 3 at the Marianas Country Club.

Pacquiao may think retirement after bout, says Roach

BANGKOK—Manny Pacquiao's trainer says the Filipino boxer will contemplate retirement if he fails to perform well against Brandon Rios this month.

Freddie Roach said if the Rios fight "does not go well, we will seriously talk about his retirement," but he added Pacquiao was training as well the Nov. 24 bout in Macau.

Pacquiao is coming off successive defeats against Timothy Bradley in a much-criticized judges' decision, and a knockout at the hands of Juan Manuel Marquez.

Another defeat would put his career at the crossroads, and while Roach said performance levels were more important than results, he acknowledged serious thought would have to be given to the future of "Pacman" if he does not return to his best in Macau.

Pacquiao is juggling his boxing career with responsibilities

as a Philippines congressman and other outside interests.

"It's really hard to say until we see the fight, but I will be the first one to tell him to retire," Roach said in a teleconference on Wednesday. "We have an agreement that as soon as I tell him that, he will retire."

However, Roach said, "I don't see him slipping in the ring at all."

The duo have been preparing in the southern city of General Santos City, which was not affected by the typhoon that recently hit the east coast of the Philippines.

Roach said General Santos City remained hot and sunny as Typhoon Haiyan devastated mostly the northern parts of the country, killing thousands and leaving more than half a million people homeless.

His status as a national hero in the Philippines meant Pacquiao considered leaving the

training camp to help relief efforts, but Roach said it was too close to the fight to alter preparations.

"It's way too close to the fight, he needs to double down," Roach said, although he granted his fighter much of Wednesday off, giving him the chance to help out.

The brutal nature of the Marquez knockout, when Pacquiao fell face first to the canvas, raised questions about whether he could maintain the all-action, on-rushing style that propelled him to the top of boxing.

Roach said he saw no sign of inhibition or caution in his style during a scheduled 110 rounds of preparation.

"I know people are skeptical about that. Manny is a realist. He accepts it. It does not bother him," Roach said. "If you don't think you're going to be knocked out, you've got the wrong sport." (*PDI*)

MHS

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went on to finish the first canto with a 19-11 lead, as only Kyla Ito made more than one field goal for the Lady Dolphins, who started the game without the injured Jeraldine Castillo.

With Castillo out, Julie Anne Reyes tried to keep MHS afloat and she got ample help from the hustle plays of Gabrielle Race and inside baskets of Diane Pablo and Lahaina Gatchalian. By the end of the first half, MHS moved within 5 points, 25-30.

Mt. Carmel managed to hang on to the lead in the first half of the third quarter, but when Karleen Reyes, Lebria, and Michelle Kautz sat out, MHS capitalized and grabbed the upper hand. The three key players had been starting for the Knights since the beginning of the double-elimination tournament last Friday and were forced to take a breather due to cramps.

While San Nicolas struggled with his manpower, MHS coach Preston Basa had the luxury of shuffling his players.

On two occasions in the third quarter, Basa replaced his starting five with fresh legs from the bench. However, it was four of Basa's starters—Race, Ito, Pablo, and Reyes—who really stepped up and by the end of the third, MHS was already on top, 48-43.

Lebria and Michelle Kautz remained on the bench in the opening two minutes of the fourth canto, allowing MHS to pad its lead to as high as 11 points, 56-45. Kautz later returned to the game along with Lebria, but failed to get their rhythm back, leaving Jan Travilla the tough job to mount a Mt. Carmel comeback, which did not materialize. Reyes ended any hopes left in the Lady Knights' bid to extend the finals, scoring 6 of MHS' last 8 points.

Mt. Carmel then finally waved the white flag at the 2:22 mark of the fourth with MHS on top, 60-49, as San Nicolas pulled out his exhausted starting crew. Basa followed the lead and recalled some of his key players and fielded in Castillo in the closing seconds of the match.

Reyes led four Lady Dol-

phins in double figures with her 14 points. Pablo chipped in 12, while Ito and Race contributed 10 apiece. Travilla paced Mt. Carmel with his 20 points, while Michelle Kautz nailed 15, but was held to one free throw in the fourth canto. Lebria chipped in 12, but made only one field goal in the entire second half.

With the Lady Dolphins extending their reign in the MISO varsity caging, only two teams have been crowned champions in the league. Kagman High School was the other squad, ruling the league in the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 seasons before MHS won the next four, including the first two against the former, 70-33, and versus Saipan Southern High School, 70-18.

Finals

MHS 60 – Reyes 14, Pablo 12, Ito 10, Race 10, Lumabi 6, Gatchalian 5, Rastguay 2, Lopez 2

MCS 52 – Travilla 20, M. Kautz 15, Lebria 12, R. Kautz 2, Taylor 2, Demapan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-19, 25-30, 48-43, 60-52.

carding a 44 in the front and 46 in the back for a gross score of 90. Benavente has a handicap of 17.

Harry Nakamura and Joey Dela Cruz actually shot lower scores than Benavente but since the two already won earlier in the year, the latter was declared the November tournament champion.

Nakamura fired 39 in the front and 42 in the back for a gross of 81. Minus his 12 handicap. Nakamura came away with a month's lowest score of 69.

Dela Cruz, meanwhile, fin-

ished with a 70 net. The nine-handicapper shot a 40 in the front and 39 in the back for a gross score of 79

In the closest to the pin battle, Rep. Tony Benavente won in hole No. 6, Frank Cabrera won in hole No. 8, Carl Hocog won in hole No. 12, and Nakamura won in hole No. 16.

MGA would like to thank Rep. Benavente and his family for hosting the club's banquet as well as Marianas Country Club

for their partnership in the MGA November Ace of the Month tournament.

For more information about this organization and for further updates on its upcoming tournaments, contact J.J. Atalig at 285-4115, Greg Sablan Jr. at 483-8263, or email marianasgolf670@gmail.com. The public can also view the organization's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MarianasGolfAssociation. (*Saipan Tribune*)



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	5	6	.455	—
Toronto	4	6	.400	½
Boston	4	7	.364	1
New York	3	6	.333	1
Brooklyn	3	6	.333	1

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	7	3	.700	—
Atlanta	6	4	.600	1
Charlotte	5	5	.500	2
Orlando	4	6	.400	3
Washington	2	7	.222	4½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	9	1	.900	—
Chicago	5	3	.625	3
Detroit	3	5	.375	5
Cleveland	4	7	.364	5½
Milwaukee	2	7	.222	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	9	1	.900	—
Houston	7	4	.636	2½
Dallas	6	4	.600	3
Memphis	4	5	.444	4½
New Orleans	4	6	.400	5

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	7	2	.778	—
Oklahoma City	6	3	.667	1
Minnesota	7	4	.636	1
Denver	4	5	.444	3
Utah	1	10	.091	7

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	7	3	.700	—
Golden State	7	3	.700	—
Phoenix	5	4	.556	1½
L.A. Lakers	4	7	.364	3½
Sacramento	2	6	.250	4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOPWOOD

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(200m and 400m freestyle and 200m individual medley) and teamed up with his schoolmates in the 200m freestyle relay. Pascual added 15 more points after winning in the 11 to 12 age group's 50m freestyle event and placing third in the 12 to 13 age group's 100m freestyle. Boyer chipped in 7, following a second place finish in the boys 12 to 13's 100m freestyle race.

Whispering Palms, which won the elementary division for the ninth straight time, settled for runner-up honors this time in the junior high after earning 18 points in the 12 to 14's mixed 200m freestyle race and

Top 5 finish in 11 to 12's 50m freestyle and 12 to 13's 100m freestyle. The Terns mixed relay team is composed of Logan Mister, Gillian Villagomez, Amber Montenegro, and Cole Chambers. Mister got 12 more points for placing second in the 50m freestyle and fourth in the 100m freestyle, while Chambers had 4 from the 100m freestyle after coming in at fifth.

SCS' 22 points came courtesy of Kento Akimaru and Arthur Sondheim. Akimaru earned 9 points from the 12 to 13's 100m backstroke and 7 from the over 13's 200m freestyle, while Sondheim was awarded 6 points from finishing third in the 12 to 13's 50m freestyle.

In the high school division, GCA collected 83 points to prevail against Saipan International School and Marianas High School, which scored 71 and 43 markers, respectively.

Swimming for the Eagles' high school team were Kensuke Kimura, Angel Marie Tan, Ciel Park, and Zhen Yu Su. Kimura and Su handed GCA 15 points in the over 14's 50m freestyle after placing first and third, while Park added 7 for rounding out at second in the same event in the girls race. Kimura added 9 more points after ruling the 100m freestyle, while Tan also gained 9 markers in the 100m breaststroke. The GCA quartet then joined the 200m medley relay to earn 18 points.

KB Market 92 – Devero 17, Talania 14, Galarce 12, Esdreton 12, Muleta 9, Barbo 8, Aquino 6, Guiab 4, Berline 2.

AXE Proa 79 – Barcinas 20, Pagarao 16, Barcinas 13, Libuw 9, Sablan 9, Rabauliman 8, Vilacrusis 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-21, 41-35, 57-54.

The Week in Sports

Golfers, swimmers take center stage

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Competitions were all over Saipan last week.

At the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, the Joeten Memorial Golf Classic returned after nearly 15 years of absence with J.J. Atalig leading the list of winners after ruling the Championship Flight.

Over at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, students participated in the 20th Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swimming Championships. Whispering Palms Schools topped the elementary division of the event, while Hopwood Junior High School and Grace Christian Academy prevailed in the junior

high and high school divisions, respectively.

At the Hopwood Junior High School Field, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association continued with its regular season game in the girls U15 league and then opened the Interscholastic Football League for U12 teams.

At the Oleai Sports Complex Field, regular season matches were also played in the M-League.

At the tennis courts in Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Kanoa Resort, the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic kicked off the opening week of its junior singles and doubles games.

At the Gillette Multipurpose

Gymnasium, the playoff round in the UFO Open caging started with only two teams left standings. The Hoopaholics took the first finals berth after prevailing over I Love Ladder Beach, while KB Market nailed the second and last finals ticket after elimination AXE Proa. Still at the Gillette

Multipurpose Gymnasium, the UFO Masters caging continued with its regular season matches with Blue Haus keeping its unbeaten record.

At the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, Island Floral retained the lead in Pool B of the DL Corp. caging, while Docomo forced a

tie for the top spot in Pool A with Fong's Bakery.

Over in San Antonio, Saipan's Mamiko Oshima-Berger and Guam Olympian Derek Mandell topped the half marathon of Pacific Islands Club's Road Race. In the 10K race, Mieko Carey and Charles Epperson were the over-

all winners.

Meanwhile, also recording a victory last week was Shane "Pik-aboo" Alvarez, who debuted in the Philippines with a first round win over Rodel "Kid" Ora in their 135-lb bout in the Pacific Xtreme Combat 41 at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Docomo's Lance Reeves pulls up for a jumper during the second quarter of their game against Chinatown in the DL Corp. caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pipit Ball nears the finish line of the 10K event in last week's PIC Road Race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Seniors Flight champion Frank Shimizu Sr., center, poses with Joeten Memorial Golf Classic tournament chair Somia Quan, and member Matt Deets during the awards ceremony at Laolao Bay last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ryuto Yanai competes in the 200m freestyle race in last week's SSC All Schools Swimming Championships at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two swimmers compete in the 100m backstroke race in last week's SSC All Schools Swimming Championships at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dylan Ackerman serves to Amami Sakano during their boys U18 title game in the 5th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last week at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

AXE Proa's Marvin Rabauliman fakes off the defense of KB Market's Brendon Talania, right, and Ivan Devero during the third quarter of their semis game in the UFO Open caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



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**Cabrera
repeats as
AL MVP**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MHS gets fourth straight title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School bagged its fourth straight championship in the varsity division of the MISO Girls Basketball League after defeating Mt. Carmel School, 60-52, in last Saturday's finals at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Lady Dolphins battled back from a slow first half to make it two in a row against the Lady Knights, who suffered a 35-79 beating at the hands of the former in last season's title game. In the rematch, it seemed Mt. Carmel was headed for a win that would have forced a deciding Game 2, as the Lady Knights led by as much as 10 points before fatigue took its toll on the wards of coach Francis San Nicolas and collapsed against the better-rested MHS crew.

The finals was Mt. Carmel's third game for the day, as it earlier met MHS in the winner's bracket semifinals with the Lady Dolphins advancing to the title match and getting a twice-



to-beat advantage, following a 63-60 victory. Mt. Carmel dropped to the loser's bracket and had to eliminate Tinian High School to earn a return trip to the finals and a second crack at MHS. The Mt. Carmel-Tinian duel for the last finals berth was set for 2pm and finished past 3pm, while the Lady Dolphins completed their semis game against the Lady Knights past 1pm and had about three hours to take a rest for the 4pm title match.

A sluggish MHS crew then showed up in the first quarter of the finals, while Mt. Carmel was on fire taking an early 8-0 lead. The Lady Knights behind the baskets from Jan Travilla, Kaylani Lebria, and Michael Kautz

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Marianas High School's Lady Dolphins pose with their championship trophy and supporters after beating Mt. Carmel School in the varsity finals of the MISO caging last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

KB Market vs Hoops in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Hoopaholics was declared the winner of a fight-marred semis game against I Love Ladder Beach, while KB Market stunned top-ranked AXE Proa in the other Final Four match in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Open Division Basketball League last Thursday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

I Love Ladder Beach was ahead in the first semis game, 66-54, when the controversial duel was halted at the 7:44 mark of the fourth canto after a bench-clearing incident.

The squabble started when the Hoops' Ben Lisua drove toward the right baseline and slammed into I Love Ladder Beach's Elgene Mangali, who fell on the floor. Lisua then threw the ball on Mangali, who quickly got up and swung at the former. Lisua retaliated, while his teammate Zack Babauta also punched Mangali. The ensuing



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

I Love Ladder Beach's Rolly Paraiso is hemmed in by the Hoopaholics' Alex Lauron, right, and Jerry Diaz during the third quarter of their semis game in the UFO Open caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

events saw players getting off their benches and the starting five from both camps entering the court to either pacify their respective teammates or threw wayward punches, while referees also stepped into the melee. It took a while before order was restored back in the game, as a spectator added heat to the already intense situation, as he got into the nerves of I Love Ladder Beach players, shouting unpleasant words.

After almost 20 minutes, the referees made the decision, ejecting Lisua, Babauta, and Mangali for throwing punches. Then for the bench clearing incident, I Love Ladder Beach took the stiffer penalty, as its entire second and third stringers were also ejected, leaving the team with only four players—Alex Standish, Ken McCain, Wowie Abuel, and Rolly Paraiso. The Hoops, though losing starters Babauta and Lisua, had five players remaining. They were Kelvin Fitial, Alex Lauron, Jerry Diaz, who were on the court before the fight happened, and Mel Manibusan and

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Hopwood, GCA triumph in swim meet



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hopwood Junior High School's Kaito Yanai competes in the 100m freestyle event in last week's SSC All Schools Swimming Championships held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School and Grace Christian Academy took the two other division championships in last week's 20th Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swimming Championships held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The Hilitais claimed the junior high school title after

earning 83 points and beating last season's champion Whispering Palms School and 2011 champion Saipan Community School, which collected 34 and 22 points to complete the Top 3.

Hopwood's champion team is composed Kaito and Hiroto Yanai, J.C. Pascual, and David Boyer. Kaito gave Hopwood 27 points off his three individual swims

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